

AUTHENTIC PAPERS

RELATIVE TO THE

EXPEDITION AGAINST THE CHARIBBS,

AND THE

SALE OF LANDS

IN THE

ISLAND OF ST. VINCENT.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. ALMON, opposite Burlington House, in Piccadilly.

MDCC LXXIII.

[Price Two Shillings and Sixpence.]

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AUTHEN-

AUTHENTIC PAPERS.

Memorial of WILLIAM YOUNG, Esq; first Commissioner for the Sale of Lands in the ceded Islands, to the Lords of the Treasury; dated 11th April, 1767.

Right Honourable Lords,

IN the twentieth instruction, the Commissioners for the sale and disposal of lands, are directed always to take care that no survey of that part of St. Vincent, which is inhabited or claimed by Charibbs, be begun before they shall have received fresh instructions for that purpose, and always to notify to the Governor General of the Grenades and Neutral Islands, or Commander in Chief for the time being, what parts of any of the said islands they intend to have surveyed, that he may assist and protect the persons employed in such service.

This instruction was given in the year 1764, in order to avoid any disturbances that might arrive in St. Vincent from the native Charibbs, whose numbers, dispositions, and settlements were not at that time sufficiently known.

The Commissioners in the course of their duty having since discovered, that the windward side of the island through which the Charibbs are dispersed, is by much the most extensive and finest part of it; and that very small and detached spots only are here and there cleared and settled by them, whilst large tracts through which they are scattered, remained in wood, useless and unoccupied, were desirous that those lands might be surveyed and disposed of in a manner beneficial to his Majesty and the colony. They were the more earnest to get this accomplished, because they apprehend the present situation of these wild and lawless savages was dangerous to his Majesty's subjects already settled in their neighbourhood, and a great impediment to the future population and culture of an island, which they conceived the best of any ceded to the crown by the late peace; for these reasons, they communicated their sentiments to the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, and prayed to be instructed how to proceed.

As it seems by no means consistent with his Majesty's clemency, nor indeed the common rights of mankind, that those native Charibbs should be extirpated, it remains to be considered, how they may best

be disposed of, without endangering the peace of the colony, and in a manner productive of their own happiness, as well as the future improvement of the country. In order that your Lordships may receive such information as may be useful on this occasion, it will not perhaps be unnecessary to give a more particular account of the Charibbs, and the island of St. Vincent.

According to the best observations I have been able to make concerning the Charibbs, their numbers consist of about 2000, including women and children; some few of them are of a yellow complexion, descended from the original natives, the rest are the descendants of a cargo of negroes who were brought from Africa, and destined for sale at Barbadoes about a century ago: but the ship missing that island, was wrecked on the coast of St. Vincent, and the negroes gaining the shore, recovered their former freedom. The yellow Charibbs, who were the original inhabitants, are of an innocent and timid nature, and have been almost extirpated by those blacks; those who remain, mix but little with them, and are very apprehensive of danger from their neighbourhood: the black Charibbs are easily distinguished from any other negroes, by a custom they have of flattening the foreheads of their infants, in order that their race may be kept distinct. They are (excepting some few who have been connected with the French) an idle, ignorant, and savage people, subject to no law or discipline, and scarcely acknowledging subordination to any chief: they speak a jargon of their own, which added to an extreme jealousy of their liberty, a distrust of those they converse with, and a little affecting cunning, make it very difficult to discourse or reason with them concerning their situation, and the arrangements necessary to be taken with respect to them. They go for the most part naked. All the men carry cutlasses, and many of them have fowling pieces, which they usually keep bright, and in good order. They live with their families in thatched huts, dispersed through the woods, and are so little given to industry, that though the soil of St. Vincent is perhaps the most fertile of any known, they cultivate only little spots scattered up and down, barely sufficient to raise such provisions as, added to what fish they catch and game they kill, are necessary to keep them alive.—Upon their first arrival in the island, they settled themselves on the western side of it, which although the worst and most mountainous part, they preferred on account, no doubt, of the tranquility of the sea, and the safety, with which canoes and other small boats may sail and approach a leeward shore; for the trade wind, almost always blowing easterly in this region

of the globe, occasions a rough surge, and often renders the windward coasts of these islands dangerous and difficult of access.

The same inducements afterwards prevailed on some of the French from the neighbouring islands to insinuate themselves among them; the soil was found superlatively excellent, and others were continually attracted by the success of their countrymen, who had gone before them, in so much, that when this island was taken by his Majesty's arms in the last war, the leeward part of it was found to be extremely well settled by four or five thousand French inhabitants from Martinico. It must be observed, that these settlers were at first admitted by the consent of the Charibbs, from whom they obtained grants in lieu of brandy and other small presents; but having once got a footing, they gradually elbowed them out from the leeward part of the country, which is at present inhabited by the remaining French, now become British subjects, and many of his Majesty's natural born subjects, who have become purchasers and settlers therein.

The importance and value of these possessions may be best known by an inspection of the sales sent home by the Commissioners, which when compared with those of Dominica, will be found to exceed them in more than the proportion of three to one; although the leases granted on the part of the crown are nearly equal in both islands.

The Commissioners have already by sales and leases, &c. (conformable to the King's instructions) disposed of this side of the country; but it is so extremely rugged and broken, that the number of acres of cultivable land contained in it, is much less than might otherwise be expected; for the internal part of the island is formed by a body of rude and impassable mountains, which diverging in chains as it were run down the western coast, and divide the land into a number of little fruitful valleys, each watered with a rapid stream, and separated from the other by large and steep hills: the valleys are now planting with canes, and will soon become valuable sugar plantations: the intervening hills are only proper for coffee, cocoa, and provisions.

The eastern, or windward part of the island, through which the Charibbs are at present irregularly scattered in the manner that has been before observed; and which the Commissioners have prayed instructions to survey and dispose of, remains almost intirely unoccupied and in wood, but it is by far, more extensive, more level, and a finer country than the part already disposed of; and as the soil is perhaps the best in the world, and it is admirably supplied with rivers, it would probably soon become a more valuable sugar colony than any possessed by the

the crown, unless Jamaica, which must be excepted only on account of its very superior extent. It seems the more necessary that means should be used for its speedy settlement, as St. Vincent (which is a small island of about twenty-two miles in length, and about fourteen or sixteen miles broad; is situated only eight leagues due south of St. Lucia, and as the leeward side of it is too much contracted by the mountains to admit of a sufficient number of settlements and inhabitants to protect it against that growing French colony.

Perhaps it may not be amiss to remark, that the French King, till the late cession of this island to the crown of Great Britain, always affected to acknowledge it as the property of the Charibbs, and the latter have accordingly imagined they had the best right to it; however, when they perceived the English repairing thither at the conclusion of the peace, many of them were desirous of removing to St. Lucia, but they were refused admittance by the French Governor.

They do not at this time appear to know what to think of their present situation, what will be acknowledged theirs, or indeed what to claim; only as they have heard that the Commissioners were ordered by the King not to dispose or survey any of the lands inhabited or claimed by them till further orders, and as the utmost good faith has been preserved respecting them, they seem inclined to require more than they can possibly find useful, or indeed than they would otherwise have presumed to do. As matters now are, they certainly appear fit objects of his Majesty's clemency, and perhaps it were a curious speculation how best to dispose of them consistent with their own happiness, the peace and safety of the present British subjects, settled in the island along with them, and the future population and culture of the colony.

If I may be allowed to speak my opinion, the sooner something is determined on this head, the better; and as the island has been ceded in full right to his Majesty, and it is not to be supposed that so small a spot is, or can be conjointly held between the King of Great-Britain and its native savages, I beg leave to submit to your Lordships consideration the following propositions:

First, That instructions be forthwith sent out to the Governor General of the Grenades, or in his absence, to the commander in chief for the time being, and to the Lieutenant Governor of St. Vincent, and also to his Majesty's Commissioners for the sale and disposal of lands to the following effect; that means be contrived, that it may be known as speedily and generally as possible among the Charibbs, that the King is graciously pleased to consider them as his loving subjects, and will protect

test them in their freedom while they continue to demean themselves faithfully and peaceably, submitting themselves to be governed by the laws of Great-Britain, or such laws as may hereafter be in force in the country, respecting free negroes or otherwise.

And that moreover, his Majesty has commanded his Commissioners to survey and dispose of, with all convenient speed, all the lands situated and lying between the river Rebechi, windward to Grandefable, and so round to Chateau Bellair. But that they are also directed to allot such lands as they shall judge convenient and sufficient to be allotted for the use, and as the property of the Charibbs, free mulattoes, and negroes now residing in St. Vincent, having regard always, in making these arrangements, to the future culture, population, and security of the island, as well as the comfort and satisfaction of the Charibbs themselves, who are expected to aid and assist the Commissioners and Surveyors in the performance of this necessary work; but will incur the King's heavy displeasure and severe chastisement, if they attempt to oppose them, in the execution of his commands, so essential to their own happiness, and to that of his faithful subjects in the same island: for which purposes the necessary orders are given to the Governors and Commanders of his Majesty's fleets and armies in that part of the world, should they prove disobedient or refractory, contrary to his just expectation and the favorable accounts he has hitherto received concerning them, from his Governors and Commissioners.

The Governor should also be instructed, that if it be found necessary, he is to assist and protect the Surveyors, and others employed in the service.

Secondly, At the same time that instructions, to the effect just mentioned, are sent out to the Governors, &c. instructions to the following purport might be dispatched to the Commissioners.

Forthwith to survey and dispose of, in a manner conformable to their former instructions, all the cultivable lands, situated between the river Rebechi, windward, to Grandefable and so round Chateau Bellair, and to cause the several allotments to be laid out and disposed of, in the quickest and least expensive method that can be contrived, consistent with the spirit of their instructions.

To allot such lands as they shall judge convenient and sufficient to be allotted for the use, and as the property of the Charibbs, free mulattoes, and free negroes, now residing in St. Vincent, having regard always in making these arrangements to the future culture, population, and security of the island, as well as the comfort and satisfaction of the

Charibbs themselves, whom his Majesty is pleased to consider as his adopted subjects, and are to be provided for with the utmost humanity, and protected as long as they continue to demean themselves faithfully and peaceably.

In the course of this duty whenever it is judged necessary, for his Majesty's service, or the safety and importance of the colony that the Charibbs shall be removed from their present huts and cleared grounds to some other part of the country, good, proper, and sufficient woodlands shall be allotted them in lieu thereof, and the Charibbs shall be permitted to continue to reside on their present cleared lands, until they shall have gathered all their provisions, built huts, and cleared and planted their other lands, allotted in lieu thereof; for which purpose five years shall be allowed them from the date of these instructions, unless they are contented to remove themselves sooner.

That in such cases their former cleared lands are to be comprized in, and sold with the plantation allotment of woodlands surrounding them, as contiguous as may happen to be most convenient, and on the removal of the Charibbs are to become the property of the person possessed of such surrounding, or contiguous plantation and not before.

That in consideration of these arrangements made, and the future removal of the Charibbs, they shall be paid for these cleared lands, so comprized and sold as before, at the rate of four Johannes, or 13l. 4s. currency per acre, according to survey, or the fairest computation that can be made, if such survey cannot expeditiously enough be executed.

That this money shall be paid them by the Receiver in two payments, the first whenever the cleared lands shall be sold, the second at the expiration of five years from the date hereof; or sooner if he shall receive the certificate from the purchaser, that the Charibbs are actually and voluntarily removed.

That these cleared lands shall be put up at auction, at a price not less than 10l. sterling per acre, and that the money to be paid by the purchaser for these cleared lands, according to the price they may happen to sell for at auction, shall be paid to the Receiver; one half down, the other half at the expiration of five years, or when he shall receive a certificate that the Charibbs are actually removed. But the woodlands are to be paid for according to the usual installments.

That the woodlands to be allotted to the Charibbs shall pay no quit-rent, and that they shall not be alienable to any white person, but possessed by themselves and successors in the manner they shall think fit

fit to agree, provided always that they continue to demean themselves peaceably and like good subjects.

And lastly, that the Commissioners shall give a certificate to the Charibbs, of the situation and quantity of land allotted them, which may be by survey, or to save time and expence, by fair computation; and that these lands so allotted them, shall be held by the Charibbs in families, or such manner as shall appear most to their satisfaction, and according to their customs.

That a list of these Charibbs, and their families, and of the lands they hold by certificate, shall be transmitted by the Commissioners to the Governor in chief and Lieutenant Governor of St. Vincent, who shall receive their declarations of fidelity to the King, as they happen to come in, and affix the great seal, if thought necessary, to the Commissioners certificate of the lands they hold, but that no fee whatsoever shall be taken by the Commissioners, or Governor, or any person, from the Charibbs for any thing they do in consequence of these instructions.

Having delivered my sentiments on this occasion in obedience to your Lordships commands, I conclude, and have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed,)

London, April 11, 1767.

WILLIAM YOUNG,

Commissioner and Receiver.

Instructions from the Lords of the Treasury, to the Commissioners for the Sale of Lands in the ceded Islands.

WHEREAS his Majesty was pleased, by his instructions bearing date the 24th of March, 1764, to direct you to take care that no survey of that part of the island of St. Vincent, which is inhabited or claimed by Charibbs, should be begun before you should have received fresh instructions for the purpose. And his Majesty was pleased at the same time to command you, to apply to the Lord High Treasurer, or Commissioners of the Treasury, for the time being, for further instructions, orders, and directions, as you should, from time to time, see cause and occasion for so doing. And whereas a memorial has been laid before us, by William Young, Esq; Commissioner and Receiver, representing on your part as well as his own, that in the course of the execution of your commission in the island of St. Vincent, you had procured and obtained more perfect information and knowledge of the situation and settlements of the Charibbs, and of the extent, soil, present condition, and improveable value of the quarter of the islands, which they occupy and inhabit, and of their numbers, disposition, habits, and manner of living, than could be had at the time when his Majesty's instructions were given to you, for the regulation of your conduct in this respect; and the memorial states, that it appears to you from the discoveries you have made, and the accounts you have received, that the number of the savages, who pass under the general denomination of Charibbs, do not exceed 2000 persons, including women and children. That the natives and original inhabitants of the island, constitute but an inconsiderable part of this computation, having been much reduced and almost extirpated, by a race of free Negroes, from whom, though they live intermixed, the native Charibbs are easily distinguishable, both as being of a different countenance and complexion, and of a nature and character much less fierce and intractable. That these two tribes of savages inhabit the eastern or windward part of the island, living in huts, irregularly scattered and dispersed in the woods, and for the most part without law, discipline or subordination. That except some spots and patches of cleared lands, on which they raise a small quantity of provisions, (which added to the fish they take are necessary for their subsistence,) the whole tract through which they are thus dispersed lies covered with wood, uncultivated and unoccupied, without benefit to the colony, or use to the nominal owners, though it is represented to be, in richness of soil, supply of
rivers,

rivers, and fitness for the growth and manufactory of sugar, more valuable than any of the lands already sold by virtue of your commission. And the memorial further represents, that it is your earnest desire and recommendation, that you may receive from us instructions and power to survey, allot and dispose of the said lands in the windward part of the island, pursuant to the tenor of your former instructions; and in case the necessity of the service shall require it, to remove the Charibbs to some other quarter of the island, which may be found as comfortable for their habitation, and as convenient for their support, as that which they now possess. And it is suggested in the said memorial, that under the precautions therein proposed, without respect to the notice to be given, the terms to be offered, and the time to be allowed them, it is your opinion that this removal may be brought about without endangering the peace of the island, and without the necessity of using any act of force or violence.

Now we having fully and maturely considered the said representation, and the propositions which it contains, think fit to approve of the plan for surveying and selling the lands, on the windward side of the island of St. Vincent, now possessed and inhabited by the Charibbs, and we direct you to observe the following special instructions in the execution of this very important service.

1st, You shall forthwith survey, and dispose of, in a manner conformable to your former instructions, all the cultivable lands, situated between the River Rebechi, windward to Grand Sable, and so round to Chateau Bellair, and cause the several allotments to be laid out and disposed of, in the most expeditious and least expensive method that can be contrived, consistently with the rules and spirit of your general instructions.

2d, You shall take no step towards the removal of the Charibbs, before notice of the whole arrangement and design shall have been given to the principal persons amongst them, in such manner, and by such mediation, as you shall judge most proper, and until they may be made to comprehend and understand the terms and conditions under which it is proposed; and after these precautions, when you shall come to the execution of the arrangement, let especial care be taken that every motion be conducted with the gentlest hand, and in the mildest manner.

3d, In fixing on the quarter of the island, destined for their new settlement, let every proper indulgence be shewn to them, and let the lands allotted to them in exchange, be convenient for their habitation,

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sufficient

sufficient for their support, and in point of situation adapted to their manner of living.

4th, You shall give certificates to some of the principal persons amongst them, of the situation and quantity of land allotted to them, which may be made by survey, or to save expence and time, by fair computation.

5th, Let the absolute property of the lands so allotted, be assured to them and their children, in such manner as shall be found most to their satisfaction, and most agreeable to their customs.

6th, Until they shall have gathered in all the provisions, sown on the cleared lands they now occupy, and shall have cleared and planted other lands in the country allotted to them, and built convenient huts for their reception, you shall permit them to remain without molestation in their present situation; and let five years from the date hereof, be allowed them for these purposes, unless they shall voluntarily, of their free will, remove themselves and their families sooner.

7th, Under such terms and conditions in the performance of all which, we order and enjoin you to observe the strictest good faith with the Charibbs) let the cleared lands which they now occupy, be comprised in, and sold with the plantation and allotment of woodland which surrounds, or lies contiguous to them, as may happen to be most convenient; and on the final and compleat removal of the Charibbs, let such cleared lands become the absolute property of the respective purchasers of such surrounding or contiguous allotments.

8th, You shall put up such cleared lands at a price not less than ten pounds sterling per acre, and let it be declared as one of the conditions of sale, that the purchase-money of such cleared lands, shall be paid to the Receiver in two payments, one half thereof at the time of such sale, and the other half at the expiration of five years, or when a certificate shall be received that the Charibbs are actually removed.

The woodlands shall be put up to auction, and sold and paid for in the manner, and by the installments, directed in your former instructions.

9th, In consideration of their consent and submission to the removal, you shall pay, or cause to be paid, to the several Charibbs, owners of such lands, or to the persons having authority to receive the same, for the cleared lands so comprised and sold, the clear sum of four Johannes,

or

or £ 13. 4s. currency, for each acre, according to the actual survey, or the fairest computation that can be made, and at that rate and proportion for any quantity of cleared land, less than one acre.

10th, This money shall be paid to the Charibbs by the Receiver in two equal payments, the first whenever the cleared lands shall be sold; the second at the expiration of five years from the date hereof, or sooner, if a certificate shall be received from the planter, that the Charibbs are voluntarily and actually removed.

11th, If at the end of the time allowed them for their removal, the Charibbs shall not have prepared huts in the manner before-mentioned, you shall apply to the Deputy Governor, or Commander in Chief of the said island, that he may give orders for erecting the same by the planters, who shall have purchased the cleared lands, which the Charibbs now occupy, or by any other proper persons, deducting any reasonable expence on that account, out of the last payment to be made to the Charibbs, for whose use the said huts shall be erected.

12th, No quit-rent shall be reserved for the lands allotted to the Charibbs, but let the absolute right and property thereof, be assured to them and their descendants in such manner as they shall desire, according to their usages and customs; and let it be declared to them, that they and their children are to hold and enjoy such lands limited by no restriction, except that of not being allowed to alienate any part of them to any white person, and subject to no other condition, except that of behaving themselves quietly and peaceably like good and faithful subjects to his Majesty.

13th, If in the course of the arrangement it shall appear to you, that the remains of the native Charibbs desire for their security to be separated and settled apart from the free negroes; and if you shall in your discretion judge, that such separation can be made and maintained without hazard to the peace or inconvenience to the property of the colony, you shall comply with such their desire.

14th, You shall transmit accounts of the numbers of the Charibbs and their families, and of the lands which they respectively hold by certificate to the Governor General, and to the Commander in Chief of the island of St. Vincent, for the time being, in order that their declarations of fidelity to the King may be received, as they shall from time to time come in for that purpose; and that the seal of the island may be affixed to such certificates, if it shall be thought necessary.

15th, No fee whatsoever shall be taken by you, or by any person employed in this service, from the Charibbs, for any thing which shall be done in consequence of these instructions.

We declare that these instructions, and every part of them, shall extend to all free negroes, and free mulattoes, inhabitants of the said island of St. Vincent, and that they shall be entitled to the same advantages and indulgencies in every respect, as are hereby intended to be granted and secured to the Charibbs.

And we declare that the said instructions, and every part of them, shall extend to all free negroes, and free mulattoes, inhabitants of the said island of St. Vincent, and that they shall be entitled to the same advantages and indulgencies in every respect, as are hereby intended to be granted and secured to the Charibbs.

Letter

*Letter from the Earl of SHELBURNE to Governor MELVILLE, dated
18th January, 1768.*

S I R,

Whitehall, January 18, 1768.

THE Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury having given instructions to the Commissioners for the sale of lands in the ceded islands; for the sale of that part of St. Vincent's which is inhabited by the Charibbs, situate between the river Rebechi, windward to Grand Sable, and so round to Chateau Bellair; I am to signify to you his Majesty's commands, that you give every support and assistance in your power to the said Commissioners in the execution of their instructions.

I am, &c.

SHELBURNE.

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Letter

AUTHENTIC PAPERS,

*Letter from Lieutenant Governor FITZMAURICE to the Earl of
HILLSBOROUGH.*

My Lord,

Grenada, May 11, 1769.

I TAKE the earliest opportunity of communicating to your Lordship the accounts I have received of the disturbance occasioned by the Indians which have lately happened in the island of St. Vincent, as contained in two letters from thence, of which I have the honour to transmit copies to your Lordship.

I have immediately sent express to St. Vincent, to acquaint the President commanding in that colony, that I am ready to send from the other islands of this government, whatever reinforcements of men or supply of ammunition which can be afforded, and may be thought necessary for the safety and tranquility of the inhabitants.

I have also written to the board of Commissioners for the disposal of lands which happens now to be held here, that they may depend on every assistance they can desire which is in my power to give.

And as my presence in St. Vincent may contribute in some degree to dissipate the alarms which seem to be spread throughout that colony; and may the better enable me to give such directions as circumstances may require, I propose sailing from hence as soon as some necessary business here will permit, which will be in a few days.

I think it my duty to acquaint your Lordship, that I have been this day assured, upon authority to which I may venture to give some credit, that those Indians or Charibbs declared their intentions not long since of sending a deputation to the French Governor of Martinique, to whom they were formerly taught, by the French missionaries, sent amongst them to pay the most implicit obedience, to know his advice in relation to the measures they should pursue concerning their lands in St. Vincent; it is added that the French Governor advised them to submit to his Majesty's orders, but their conduct has proved that either they thought proper to disregard such advice, or that an opposite one was given to them privately; I have sent for the person to whom the Charibbs mentioned this application, as well as the subject of the conference: I have not as yet seen him; but if upon a strict enquiry, I find that such a deputation

was

was sent, and was received by the Governor of Martinique, I may be induced to write to him upon the occasion. A good understanding has hitherto subsisted between him and the neighbouring British Governors. His answer, and whatever other events may occur in relation to these people, I shall take the earliest opportunity of communicating to your Lordship. I have the honour to be, with great respect,

My Lord,

your Lordship's most obedient

humble servant,

ULYSSES FITZMAURICE.

Letter

*Letter from WILLIAM YOUNG, Esq; first Commissioner for the sale of lands
to HARRY ALEXANDER, Esq; President of the island of St. Vincent.*

S I R,

St. Vincent, May 1, 1769.

FROM intelligence which I can depend upon, communicated to me by Mr. Simpson, his Majesty's chief surveyor of lands in the ceded islands, it appears that the Charibbs have expressed great uneasiness and dissatisfaction at the endeavours of the Commissioners to carry the King's instructions for the survey and disposal of lands in the island into execution, as far as respects the lands inhabited or claimed by them: and they have in consequence already assembled themselves to the number of upwards of 200 well armed (and are hereby increasing) with a firm determination to prevent by force, if necessary, these instructions being accomplished.

I have since seen Captain Wilkie, the Officer commanding that part of his Majesty's 32d regiment, stationed in this country, as well as several other officers and gentlemen who have been witnesses to the appearance, behaviour and resolution of this armed body to oppose the detachment of soldiers destined to support the King's surveyors in the execution of their duty, and I am fully confirmed, by their united information and opinion, that the instructions from the Lords of the Treasury to the Commissioners for the sale and disposal of lands on the windward side of St. Vincent, cannot at present be executed without greatly endangering the security and peace of the country, or without the support of a much greater force than it appears possible to raise in it at present, for that purpose.

By examining carefully our instructions I find these words, that they are given on a suggestion that they may be brought about without endangering the peace of the island, and without the necessity of using any act of force or violence. And moreover I afterwards observe the following command, viz. You shall take no step towards the removal of the Charibbs before notice of the whole arrangement and design shall have been given to the principal persons among them, in such manner and by such mediation as you shall judge most proper, and until they be made to comprehend and understand the terms and conditions under
which

which it is proposed: and after these precautions, when you shall come to the execution of the arrangement, let especial care be taken that every motion be conducted with the gentlest hand, and in the mildest manner.

I have herewith the honour to inclose you an exact copy of all these instructions which we have ever most carefully complied with; and as one of his Majesty's Commissioners for the sale and disposal of lands in the ceded islands, I now think it my duty to acquaint you, that in obedience to these instructions, I can no longer require from you the aid or assistance of his Majesty's troops to support the Surveyors in carrying them into execution.

I would not lightly desist from an undertaking which it is my duty to see performed: but as it is apparent from the spirit, as well as letter of our instructions, that nothing is to be effected in the present case by a violence or compulsion that might endanger the peace and security of this infant and weak colony, I am clearly of opinion that nothing on the part of the Commissioners is more to be attempted here, till the King's further pleasure be known.

I shall therefore immediately forbid the Surveyors to proceed any longer in tracing the road through the Indian country, or in their surveys, and shall take the earliest opportunity of going out in person to meet the Charibbs, and acquaint them of my resolution as a Commissioner, acting in conformity to his Majesty's commands.

I thought it necessary to communicate my sentiments to you on this important and critical situation, and have the honour to be, with great respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient

and most humble servant,

WILLIAM YOUNG.

LMH

*Letter from HARRY ALEXANDER Esq. President of St. Vincent, to
Lieutenant Governor FITZMAURICE.*

SIR, St. Vincent, May 3, 1769.

I Had the honour of writing to you last by Captain Halliburton, and I now take the earliest opportunity to acquaint you of the very critical situation this island has since been in, from the turbulent spirit of the Charibbs, arising from their jealousy and dissatisfaction in the measures of government, concerning the intention of selling and disposing of those lands in their occupation, and the tracing roads, into their country. I was first warned of their being in this disposition by a letter from Mr. Simpson, his Majesty's chief Surveyor, on Wednesday last, and that the Surveyors had been by the Charibbs insulted, and obstructed in proceeding with the trace of the road, requesting, that the guard then posted at some distance from where the Surveyors were at work, should advance to support them, and that a house should by Friday or Saturday be ready at the end of the road, for the reception of the guard. I accordingly gave orders to the commanding officer, that the guards should advance to that new post, which was done on Saturday morning, but with such opposition from the Charibbs, that nothing but the temper and prudence of the officer could have preserved them from an immediate action, which probably in such a country, and under such circumstances, might have proved fatal to so small a handful of troops, being only forty in number, to encounter in a woody country, under every disadvantage, a body of Indians, upwards of two hundred, well armed, firmly resolved, they said, to keep their freedom, and preserve their lands. The officer however, thought it his duty to keep the post, and wait farther orders. The day following I received advice from Captain Wilkie, the commanding officer of that part of his Majesty's regiment quartered here, that the Charibbs had cut off the communication between him and the troops he had with him posted at fort Tyrrell, and the advanced guard in the Charibb country on the road, and that their situation must be very critical indeed, as by that means, the guard was cut off from every supply of water and provisions, and sixteen miles advanced

advanced in the heart of the Charibb country, surrounded by a numerous body of vile savages, who had impudently commenced hostilities, by obliging the Surveyors to make their escape in the best manner they could by flight, leaving their baggage and every thing behind them: upon which the Charibbs set fire to their houses and burnt them to the ground. Upon this advice, all the troops that could be mustered from Kingstown, immediately marched as far as Tyrrell's fort, and from thence, by the dawn of yesterday, I marched, with 100 men, to relieve the guard on the road, joined by as many of the principal gentlemen of the country, as in so short a space of time could be collected together, with their white servants, and a proportion of their trustiest slaves. By eight o'clock we got within a mile and a half of the advanced party of the Charibbs, in number, as I was informed, upward of 200, which shortly increased to about 100 more. The troops, then fatigued with a long march, I ordered to halt, that they might rest, and I gain intelligence, and to take the advice of the gentlemen of his Majesty's council, the commanding officer of the troops, Governor Young, and the principal gentlemen of property in the country, then present, as to the measure I should direct to be pursued, as well as to take the opportunity of reading a letter from Governor Young, wrote by him as a Commissioner, and by himself put into my hands on the march, which till then I had not leisure to peruse, a copy of which I do myself the honour to inclose to you, and from which you will see, notwithstanding how sensible I was his Majesty's government had by those wretches been violently insulted, yet from his Majesty's boundless humanity and tender disposition respecting those people, I found myself restrained from any act of violence such as I could justify, without risque of incurring his Majesty's displeasure, unless drove to it from necessity. From mature deliberation upon these matters, assisted by the advice of the council and Governor Young, whose judgment in service I have a pleasure in owning I pay great deference to, I was advised and led to conceive the most essential service I could do to this colony in its present situation, and most consistently with his Majesty's royal instructions, by and with the advice of his Privy Council to his Commissioners, would be carefully to avoid coming to hostilities with those creatures, unless under the necessity of it to regain the advanced guard then surrounded by them, and the better to effect that purpose, to acquaint the Charibbs by message, that I was not come make war with them; that his Majesty had not yet sufficiently instructed his Governors respecting that, therefore I only

came

HARRY ALEXANDER

came to demand a safe return to the advanced guard, and that as the carrying a road into their country had given so much uneasiness, Governor Young, as his Majesty's chief Commissioner, would give directions, that the Surveyors shall desist from proceeding any further, till his Majesty shall be pleased to direct his Governor what shall be his farther intentions in regard to them, and that if they behaved themselves peaceably and quietly, every thing should remain as it was before, till his Majesty's farther instructions shall arrive, and of which they shall have a notice: this they readily agreed to, and promised to return peaceably to their homes: the guard returned unmolested, and I withdrew the troops to their quarters without the discharge of a musket on either side, and for a time, I hope it will be short, I quitted that fine cream part of this island, with a regret I cannot express to you. However, as I write this letter in a hurry, merely to give your Honor a detail of this matter, lest from a misrepresentation you should have been uneasy about the colony, I shall not therefore touch upon any other subject. We are now, I think, in as much peace as at any time before, yet we ought not to consider ourselves secure, but to provide against the worst, for on this late occasion, we were, I mean the inhabitants, men with good hearts and hands, but without arms to employ them. Respecting these considerations, and a proper representation of this people and the lands they occupy, to his Majesty, is not the present design of this letter, that Sir, will be made to you very shortly, in a more full and regular manner.

The happiness I have had in Governor Young's being on the spot, and co-operating in every thing with me, will only be equalled in the enjoyment I shall have in your approbation of the measures I have taken, if I am lucky enough to have it. The alacrity of the officers and troops imitated in every instance by the inhabitants, gave me much pleasure, and a full confidence they were ready to do their duty, and much wished his Majesty's mildness had been less, and his instructions to his Commissioners less positive respecting the Charibbs, whose insolence they were impatient to chastise, and unhappy in the disappointment, nothing but order and discipline restraining them.

I have the honour to be, with the utmost regard, Sir,

Your most humble and most obedient Servant.

HARRY ALEXANDER.

Memorials of RICHARD MAITLAND, Esq. of Mark-Lane, London.

To the Right Honourable the Earl of Hillsborough, one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, &c. &c. &c.

The Memorial of Richard Maitland, Agent for the Island of St. Vincent,

Humbly sheweth,

THAT before the island of St. Vincent was ceded to the crown of Great-Britain, the French had settled and planted part of it with coffee and cocoa; but the far greater part was possessed, tho' little cultivated, by the Charibbs.

That the lands formerly occupied and deserted by the French, have been chiefly purchased from the crown, by our own natural born subjects, at prices far exceeding the most sanguine expectations, buildings erected, negroes, cattle, and every implement necessary for making sugar, provided at great expence. Many estates are now completely settled, which promise success beyond any former example, both with respect to the fertility of the soil, and the excellent quality of the sugar.

That besides the sugar estates, there are many plantations of coffee, and cocoa, chiefly possessed by the French, who still remain and hold their lands by leases from the crown.

That from the pleasing prospect of success, the purchasers thought themselves happy; till they were alarmed with the account of between two and three hundred black Charibbs, having stopped the Surveyors employed by the crown, in laying out and making a road round the island.

That from what passed between some of these black Charibbs and the Surveyors, as well as the account given by Captain Patrick Wilkie, of the thirty third regiment, to the Honourable Harry Alexander, the President, it appears, the Charibbs were determined not to suffer the Surveyors to proceed farther on their business; nor would they let the party of Soldiers who guarded them, go to their new barracks at Mercerika, but pulled down the house which was lately built, after having in vain attempted to burn it, the thatch being green. In short *that they denied any subjection to his Majesty, and were determined to preserve their independence.*

That as soon as Sir William Young, the first Commissioner for the sale of lands, was informed by the Officers of the regiment and Surveyors, as well as by several other Gentlemen who had been witness to the

appearance, behaviour, and resolution of this armed body, to oppose the detachment appointed to support the Surveyors, he acquainted the President, that the Commissioners could not, at present proceed to execute their instructions, for the disposal of the lands, without endangering the peace and safety of the colony.

And as their instructions ordered them not to use any coercive means, he had forbid the Surveyors to proceed farther, but that he would go in among the Charibbs and inform them of his resolution, to obey his Majesty's commands, which were, to observe the most humane conduct towards them.

That the President, in consequence of this representation from Sir William Young, ordered the troops to be withdrawn from the advanced guard, and called the council and assembly, to communicate to them the steps which had been taken; and to consult what was proper to be done in so critical a situation, when their lives and fortunes might all be in danger, if these infatuated savages should be underhand aided and influenced by our secret enemies and rivals at Martinica; the councils and assembly, sensible of their danger, resolved to address his Majesty, for such immediate aid, as he in his great goodness shall think necessary for their present circumstances. They also resolved, to put themselves in the best posture of defence in their power, to guard against their dangerous situation, from an armed force, *in actual rebellion*, in the heart of their country, and wait, with anxiety, till his Majesty's pleasure was known.

Sir William more than once, afterward, went out to meet their chiefs, but they would not give him an opportunity of speaking with them.

Your Lordship knows the Charibbs are two distinct bodies, viz. the Aborigines or yellow Charibbs, an inoffensive quiet people, no ways concerned in the present rebellion; the others (the black Charibbs,) are the descendents of a cargo of Guinea slaves, stranded there, many years ago; who after they had been humanely received by the ancient inhabitants, soon repaid their hospitality with ingratitude, and have now almost extirpated them. The runnaways from Barbadoes, Martinico, and Guadalupe, have from time to time increased their numbers, and enabled them to gain the superiority of the yellow Charibbs, and now they entice the slaves of our own planters, in the island, offering protection and liberty to all who will join them. And what adds to the danger from these savages, is their being supplied with, *new fire-arms from the French islands*, with which they keep up a close correspondence.

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From this your Lordship must think them bad neighbours, even in time of peace, and that in time of war, connected as they are, every thing is to be dreaded from them.

Your memorialist humbly begs your Lordship to take these matters into consideration, and to intercede with his Majesty, that he may be graciously pleased to order some additional troops to be sent, immediately, to the protection of this valuable infant colony, and to give such directions about the disposal of the black Charibbs, as he shall in his wisdom think most prudent, and your memorialist shall ever pray, &c.

Address of the Council and Assembly of St. Vincent to the King.

Saint Vincent.

To his most Excellent Majesty.

WE your Majesty's most dutiful, loyal, and faithful subjects, the Council and Assembly of the island of St. Vincent, inviolably attached by every tie of duty and gratitude, to your Majesty's person and government; beg leave to return your Majesty our most sincere and humble thanks, for the support and protection that we have hitherto enjoyed; and we most humbly beg permission to approach the throne, and lay before your Majesty the dangerous and distressed situation of this colony.

Your Majesty's natural born subjects, purchased lands at very high prices, with an intention of cultivating them, and had met with success beyond the most sanguine expectations, with the greatest probability of rendering this one of the most flourishing of your Majesty's sugar islands, till unexpectedly their properties are rendered very precarious, and their lives endangered by a rebellion of the negroes, commonly called Black Charibbs; principally the descendants of runaway negroes from Barbadoes, and the other neighbouring islands, who being joined by runaway slaves from the present inhabitants, in great numbers have assembled themselves in arms, in the windward part of this island, without the least provocation from the inhabitants, and have destroyed the highways, and prevented all communication betwixt the different parts of this island; daily enticing their slaves to join them, detaining others by force, who accidentally fall into their hands, promising them their liberty, arms, and lands, provided they would join and assist them in totally extirpating the white inhabitants, insulting your Majesty's subjects

jects, forcing from their habitations the original yellow or red Charibbs, a harmless and well affected people, who first afforded them an asylum, and most undutifully and ungratefully denying they bear any allegiance to your Majesty; and in disobedience to the laws, contemptuously carrying off tobacco, provisions, and other produce to the French islands, and importing their manufactures, arms, ammunition, and spirituous liquors; which not only make their residence in the country claimed by them, a very great detriment to the settlement of the colony, but likewise prevent the cultivation of that valuable and extensive tract of land, which while in their hands lies almost entirely uncultivated.

The paternal care your Majesty constantly shews your subjects in every part of your dominions, however distant from the throne, encourages us to hope for your protection against these savages, by such effectual measures being taken with them, that may prevent their being dangerous in time of peace, or employed in time of war by your Majesty's enemies in harassing from within, while these from without attack this defenceless island: having but very few regular troops remaining, and being unprovided with forts, batteries, artillery, or war-like stores, the expences of providing which, would be too great for an infant colony; but which we most humbly hope to be supplied with from the extensive protection afforded to every part of his Majesty's dominions, against the insults of your enemies.

It remains for us most ardently to pray that your Majesty, rich in every domestic bliss, may long, very long, and happily reign over a free and grateful people; and that there may never be wanting a Prince of your royal house, to sway the sceptre over these realms, to the latest posterity.

Letter from the Earl of Hillsborough to Lieutenant Governor Fitz-Maurice, dated Whitehall, 4th August, 1769.

SIR,

HIS Majesty has given the fullest consideration to the state of the Island of St. Vincent, as represented in your letter, No. 28, and in the Address of the Council and Assembly which accompanies it.

The King trusts that the prudent measures you have taken to supply the inhabitants with arms and ammunition, will in some degree, remove their apprehensions of any immediate danger from the Charibbs, and dissipate the alarm they seem at present to be under; but if these savages

savages should continue in a state of hostility, and you should not be able, with the force which may be collected from the other islands within your government, to reduce them to a proper submission to his Majesty; in that case, it is his Majesty's pleasure, that you do make a requisition from the Commander in Chief of his Majesty's forces in North America, for such an additional number of troops as you shall think absolutely necessary for that purpose, which requisition General Gage will receive the King's command to comply with, if it can be done consistent with his Majesty's service on the continent. But I have it particularly in command from his Majesty, to signify to you his pleasure, that if you shall find it absolutely necessary to make any requisition of troops from Major General Gage, you do at the same time transmit to him a very full and explicit representation of the state of the island, together with the minute explanation of your reasons for making such requisition, and the circumstances which induce you to fix upon the number of men you shall think fit to require.

I am, &c.

HILLSBOROUGH.

Letter from Lieutenant Governor FITZMAURICE to the Earl of
HILLSBOROUGH.

My Lord,

St. Vincent, June 10, 1769.

IMMEDIATELY after I had the honour of writing my letter, No. 30, from Grenada, I sailed from thence for this island.

Upon my arrival here I found the Charibbs were apprehensive that there was a design, not only of depriving them of their grounds, but also of reducing them into slavery, notwithstanding the very particular pains that had been taken by his Majesty's Commissioners, to explain and make known to them the King's most gracious and humane intentions to preserve them in their freedom, and to allow them good, proper, and sufficient lands for their support, maintenance, and comfort.

Those among them who live upon the borders of that part of the island which is claimed and solely occupied, though little cultivated by them, being somewhat more civilized than the rest, and awed perhaps also by the neighbourhood of white persons, seemed to acquiesce in the measures, and confide in the promises of government.

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But they who live more remotely from the settlements, partaking of that suspicious disposition which is natural to savages, however apparently submissive, and even satisfied when present at any conference, cannot easily be reconciled to the vicinity of white people, whose gradual and successful intrusions upon their Charibb neighbours they are sagacious enough to have remarked.

The situation of the windward part of this island makes an intercourse in open canoes between them and the French inhabitants of St. Lucia both short and easy; there they sell tobacco, Indian provisions, hammocks, ozier baskets, in exchange for guns, cutlasses, gunpowder, and a few manufactures. They are of a disposition so little bent to industry, and their wants are so easily satisfied, that the amount of this trade, which will not be a little difficult totally to prevent, is very inconsiderable, nor otherwise important, than it serves to preserve the influence which a foreign colony maintains over these his Majesty's subjects, which might be turned to a very fatal purpose to the rest of the inhabitants of this island, and is partly the cause of the present uneasiness. Many of the inhabitants of St. Lucia formerly lived in St. Vincent, but abandoned their estates here, after it was ceded to his Majesty; they consider the present possessors, as usurpers of their property, and retain an irreconcilable hatred to the English name. These people are exceedingly diligent in working the weak minds of Charibbs, already prejudiced and suspicious, into a distrust of the British government; they have propagated a report, as those Charibbs are mostly descended from a parcel of slaves bound in an English ship from Africa to Barbadoes, but wrecked on the eastern coast of St. Vincent, that the heir of the owner of the ship and slaves has lately applied to have the Charibbs sold as his property, and for his benefit. The Charibbs cannot but be alarmed at these reports, and are led by their apprehensions to attribute every measure of government to a fixed design of bringing about the purpose of enslaving them. The road which was lately begun through the country by directions of the Commissioners, they will not allow to be with any other view. They have a lively remembrance still of the attempt which was made many years ago by the French to make them slaves; the ill success of the French on that occasion, gives them confidence that future attacks upon them will be attended with a similar event. They have been since accustomed to consider themselves as perfectly independent. The French inhabitants in St. Vincent derived their titles chiefly from purchases made of these savages. The consciousness of the superiority

of their strength and numbers was attended with the ferocity with which such a sentiment is generally accompanied in savage breasts, and the activity and hardness of their disposition, which they derived from their African ancestors, was not as yet lost by their intermixture with the red or original Charibbs in these climates. It was formerly their practice to burn the plantations of the inhabitants with whom they happened to be offended; but it was the French policy to carefs and bear patiently every outrage from them. Many of the Charibbs have been baptized by missionaries from France, most of them speak corruptly the language of that country. Pains were taken, in the late war, to instil into their minds a hatred for the English. Some of them are said to have assisted in the defence of Martinique, when besieged by our forces; they have gradually been led to consider the Governor of that island as their protector, though they affect not to acknowledge the sovereignty of any Prince. Upon some apprehensions which they conceived of designs against them, they applied to the Governor of Martinique, about two years ago, for permission to settle in the island of St. Lucia, which is dependant upon his government, but they were refused. About seven months ago, soon after his Majesty's Commissioners had given directions for surveying and laying out lots of lands for sale, on the windward side of the island, the Charibbs declared their intentions of opposing by force any attempt to carry those measures into execution beyond a river called Niambou, which they chose to consider as their boundary. I had the honour of acquainting your Lordship, at the time of these threats, and also of the measures which I have taken for the support of his Majesty's Commissioners. When the Charibbs found that preparations were made to pass that river by force, and that there were troops sent to support the persons employed by the Commissioners, they then thought proper to desist from their first pretensions: but they continued to consider, with an evil and jealous eye, the progress that was making in the admeasurement of the lands which were claimed, though little cultivated by them, as well as the knowledge which was daily acquired of the country, by the constant intercourse into, and the road made through it. The difference of manners, languages, and prejudices gave also rise to various disgusts on their part, trifling considered separately, but accumulated together, and added to their general suspicions, exasperated them at length to such a degree, that they actually sent several of their Chiefs to the Governor of Martinique, requiring his advice, protection, and assistance; he has declared to a gentleman of this island, and he has

written

written before my late arrival here, to the President of the Council; that he advised them in the strongest terms to submit to whatever measures his Majesty should be pleased to ordain concerning them. Protection and assistance he positively refused them. However, soon afterwards the Surveyors were advancing towards the settlements of the fiercest and least civilized Charibbs, they began to disturb and harass them in their operations, and at last proceeded to such threats and ill usage as compelled the Surveyors to desist and retire.

A detachment of forty men of the 32d regiment being sent to protect the Surveyors, the Charibbs appeared to the number of about 200 armed with fuses, cutlasses, bows and arrows, and threatened they would not permit any road to be made through their country, declared they owed no sovereignty to any prince; that not being subjects to the King of France, he could not cede them to the King of Great-Britain. That the whole of the island of St. Vincent, formerly belonged to them; that they had gradually given away half on the leeward part to the French settlers, who had come hither from time to time, which half might be ceded to the British crown, but that they were determined to preserve the remaining half, or windward part to themselves, in perfect independency. The detachment however remained some days in the post in which it was sent, without any attack on the part of the Charibbs, but the Surveyors chose to retire; the Charibbs burnt their temporary huts, destroyed their utensils, broke up the roads lately made in several places, and held in every respect such a conduct, and such discourses as persuaded the President of the council, his Majesty's first Commissioners, and indeed most persons in the colony, that there was no likelihood of prosecuting the survey and sale of those lands, without endangering the peace of the island, or without committing acts of violence; as these were circumstances in which the Commissioners have understood, that they were not to proceed upon the execution of their additional instructions, for the disposal of the Charibb lands, and also as they were requested by both houses of the legislature here, to desist from any sales, for the safety of the colony, they have accordingly postponed them until they shall receive further orders from government. Since the retreat of the persons employed by them, and of the troops intended for the support of these from the windward side of the island, the Charibbs have burnt the remaining huts, which had been erected there for the use of the troops, Surveyors and their slaves, have felled more trees in some parts of the roads, in order to obstruct the passage and have committed some trifling ravages on their neighbours. The confusion which

which has been much increased by false alarms, that they were coming down to destroy and burn the plantations and inhabitants on the leeward part of the island, though it appears that no such resolution had been formed; yet the lawless and savage disposition of these Indians, their fluctuating temper, the suddenness of their resolves, their proneness to excess from caprice and drunkenness, a knowledge of the ravages committed by them formerly, on the slightest pretences, the influence they are under to foreigners, and disaffected and ill disposed persons, their quick sense of the supposed injuries intended them, and the insolence and inclination to violence, so natural to savage minds, on the victory they imagine they have gained, by the measures of government not taking place respecting their lands, have been the subject of much uneasiness to this colony, when added to the consideration of the small number of white inhabitants, the few troops, and total want of fortified places.

In this state I found the island when I arrived, and have endeavoured to restore tranquillity by every measure in my power. I have been among the Charibbs, and have issued a proclamation concerning them in the English and French languages, of which I have the honour to inclose copies to your Lordship. I have ordered four companies of the 32d regiment, from Dominica, to join the five already here, which leaves but one regiment among all the other islands of the government. I have given directions for some pieces of ordnance from Grenada, to defend an eminence near the principal town, which is intended for the retreat of women and children, and for depositing records, and valuable effects. I have applied to Admiral Pye for a ship to cruize between the islands of St. Vincent and St. Lucia, to prevent or obstruct the intercourse between the Charibbs and the inhabitants of the latter island; and after the maturest consideration, I thought I could not, without impeding his Majesty's service, and exposing this colony to much danger, avoid yielding to the earnest solicitations of the people, in giving my assent to an act for immediately raising a militia in the island, after having taken the utmost precaution, that in its several clauses, it was conformable to the instructions transmitted to me upon that subject. Your Lordship will receive an authentic copy of this act by this conveyance, together with the minutes of the Council, and proceedings of the Assembly. The intent of this act, is a security in the present exigency, and would be entirely defeated, were it to contain a clause suspending its execution till his Majesty's pleasure were known; and I have therefore, in this one instance, ventured to deviate from the letter of my instructions, in a case not to be foreseen; which I hope will not be disapproved.

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proved. I have pursued every other method I could have devised, and taken every arrangement conducive to the tranquillity and safety of the island, and every thing is now quiet. To the detail I have already entered into, I have nothing further to add to your Lordship, than that it appears, that while these Charibbs are permitted to occupy a large extent of country, without any mixture of white inhabitants, they will retain their fierce untractable nature, continue uncivilized, lawless, disaffected, and of no use; and that the rest of the colony will be in real danger, and constant apprehensions of sudden attacks from them; and that in case of a war with France, they will be inclined, and probably be induced totally to destroy it.

As from the most exact calculations, they cannot exceed a thousand fighting men, headed by several very intelligent, as well as resolute Chiefs; the assistance of another regiment properly disposed in various parts of the island, so as to oblige them to divide their strength, with directions to the Commander of his Majesty's ships in these seas to co-operate with the forces under his command, together with some expence for presents to be distributed among them, and other incidental charges, would in all probability be sufficient to oblige them, with little or no bloodshed, to submit to the measures of government, and to suffer white inhabitants to live peaceably among them; the expence would be greatly overpaid by the sale of the lands, and the event is exceedingly desirable, and indeed essential to the security and welfare of this island. I have the honour to be, with great respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient

Humble Servant,

ULYSSES FITZMAURICE.

P. S. As your Lordship may be desirous of being acquainted with the most minute circumstances of this affair, as well as every detail concerning this colony, I have intrusted this packet to Mr. Sharpe, Speaker of the Assembly of this island, from whom I dare say your Lordship will receive a very intelligent and satisfactory account.

ULYSSES FITZMAURICE.

St.

St. VINCENT.

PROCLAMATION.

By the Hon. Ulysses Fitzmaurice, Commander in Chief in and over his Majesty's Southern Carabée Islands of Grenada, the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Tobago in America; and of all other Islands and Territories which have been heretofore, or may be hereafter dependent thereupon, Chancellor, Ordinary, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c. &c. &c.

WHEREAS His Most Excellent Majesty, GEORGE the Third, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. in his paternal care and attention to his loyal subjects in every part of his extensive dominions, hath been graciously pleased to signify his invention of taking the Carabes, Free-Mulattoes, and Free-Negroes of the island of St. Vincent under his royal protection, and hath expressly commanded, that they should be preserved in the perfect enjoyment of their freedom, and hath directed his Commissioners for the sale and disposal of his lands in these islands, to allot to the said Carabes, Free-Mulattoes, and Free-Negroes, good, proper, and sufficient lands, for their support, maintenance and comfort, to be enjoyed by them and their posterity, according to their own usages and customs. And Whereas it appears that notwithstanding the great care and pains which his Majesty's said Commissioners have taken, to make known to the said Carabes, Free-Mulattoes, and Free-Negroes, the King's gracious and humane intentions in their favour, and to explain to them the several arrangements to be taken, in pursuance of the royal instructions, as well for the permanent safety, tranquillity and prosperity of the said Carabes, Free-Mulattoes, and Free-Negroes, as for the farther improvement and cultivation of the said lands on the windward side of his Majesty's said island of St. Vincent. Nevertheless, great discontents and jealousies have arisen in the minds of some of the said black Carabes, from the false reports and traitorous insinuations of divers ignorant and ill-disposed persons, disaffected to his Majesty's person and government; by which means the said Carabes have lately appeared dissatisfied, refractory, and disposed to obstruct by force, the measures pursued by his Majesty's command. I have thought proper,

per, in tenderness to the said Caraibes, Free-Mulattoes, and Free-Negroes, and to take away the effect of all false reports and malicious insinuations, and to remove all doubts from their minds, concerning his Majesty's goodness towards them, and by and with the advice of his Majesty's council of this island, hereby to declare, it is his Majesty's royal pleasure, to preserve the said Caraibes, Free-Mulattoes, and Free-Negroes, in the perfect enjoyment of their freedom, and to allot to them, good, proper, and sufficient lands, for their support, maintenance and comfort, to be enjoyed by them and their posterity, according to their own usages and customs, and to protect them against all injustice or oppressions whatsoever; provided always, that the said Caraibes, Free-Mulattoes, and Free-Negroes, demean themselves peaceably and submissively to the laws of this island, and to his Majesty's commands; and at the same time to give them notice, that if they presume riotously or unlawfully to assemble in arms, with a design of opposing or obstructing the measures ordered by his Majesty, in any part of this island of St. Vincent, or of doing any injury to the persons or property of any of the inhabitants thereof, or of attempting any mischief whatsoever to the public or to individuals, they will incur his Majesty's highest displeasure, and forfeit all claim to his gracious protection and favour, and be exposed to the severest punishments. And they are hereby warned not to listen or put faith in any reports or insinuations tending to diminish that just confidence and reliance upon his Majesty's goodness towards them, which it becomes them to preserve, and on which their safety depends; but to put all trust and confidence in the assurances which they have or may receive from his Majesty's Commissioners for the sale and disposal of lands in these islands, who derive their instructions from the crown, concerning the said Caraibes, Free-Mulattoes, and Free Negroes, and the several arrangements necessary to be made respecting them.

Given at the Government-house, St. Vincent, this 10th day of June, 1769, and in the ninth year of his Majesty's reign.

By his Honour's command.

(James Ilford)

ULYSSES FITZMAURICE.

*Report of the Commissioners for the Sale of Lands in the
Ceded Islands to the Lords of the Treasury, dated Domi-
nica, 16 Oct. 1771.*

To the Right Hon. the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury.

*The Report of the Commissioners for Sale and Disposal of Lands in the
Ceded and Neutral Islands, concerning the Charibbs of St. Vincent.*

IN obedience to your Lordship's instructions to us, on the 25th of January last, relative to the Charibbs, we proceeded in the execution thereof, by fixing a time for the meeting of the Chiefs, and most sensible persons amongst them, at Morni Garou, on the borders of the country which they claim; and having given this previous notice, we met on the day appointed about forty of the Black Charibbs, inhabiting the internal parts of the island, under the conduct of one named Chatoyé, a person esteemed to have the most influence amongst them, and they of Grand Sable the most considerable district. After explaining to them very fully his Majesty's displeasure at the pretended purchases made from some among them, without his previous approbation (which seemed to them very agreeable to hear, as the Charibbs in general are averse to these purchases taking place, and would even oppose them by force) and after explaining to them very fully his Majesty's gracious intention of preserving and defending them in their liberties, and of confirming them in the possession of certain lands, necessary and convenient for their subsistence, and also of making them presents in money for such lands as they should relinquish, we proposed their yielding to us that part of the island called Morni Garou, extending as far as Point Espagnol, at the north end of the island, a tract which we had reason to think might contain about four thousand acres of practicable land: and as this part of the country was chiefly claimed by those Charibbs then assembled, we offered in his Majesty's name, as a recompence for it, to confirm to them the whole of the land inhabited by them, and woods adjacent, in the district of Morni, Espagnol, Rabaca, and Grand Sable, which we promised should never be taken from them; and that

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they

they might be permitted to sell it on obtaining the King's licence. We also offered a present in money of one thousand Johanneses, or thirty six shilling pieces, to be divided amongst them. We esteemed this as a very advantageous offer on the part of the Charibbs, as in the whole extent of country which we asked, there is no settlement possessed by a Black Charibb, the only inhabitants there being two or three free negroes, who live on small spots formerly cleared by some of the Charibbs, and under whom they now hold their land; and in order to obviate any difficulties these persons might raise, we offered to provide some other land for them, in case it should be necessary to remove them from their settlements. Some Red Charibbs had been formerly settled in this part, but having received money from those adventurers who have been trying to force themselves into those lands, have now entirely quitted, and no person made any claim on their behalf. We also thought that the offer of confirming to them the whole of the lands in the parts where they were settled, would be readily accepted, as they would thereby be quite separate from the white inhabitants; a point they have always appeared to think of great importance. On asking whether they were willing to agree to our proposal, we were greatly surprized to find them in a fixed resolution not to consent to our settling any part of the country claimed by them; which they steadily adhered to, notwithstanding our endeavours, by many arguments, to prevail on them to alter their sentiments. On our departure, we desired them to return to their habitations, and consult further with the rest of the people, and if they should alter their resolution, to acquaint us of it within ten days, otherwise we should consider them as persisting in their refusal; since which we have heard nothing concerning them, and therefore conclude they are determined not to consent to any terms.

We were greatly astonished at this refusal, as we had good reason to think, from the declarations of many of them, particularly Chatoyé, the Chief then present, that they would have consented; and can only attribute this behaviour to the influence of one amongst them, who had been resident in Martinico from his infancy, and had been servant to several French officers, who was lately returned and settled in the Charibb country. On our demanding whether they acknowledged themselves subjects of the King of Great Britain, and desiring to know
whether

whether they would take the oath of allegiance, this person spoke for them, and answered in the negative; and said they were independent of either the King of Great Britain, or of France, but at the same time they confessed a great partiality to the French, and declared they had been ordered by the Governor of Martinico not to give up any land; and that he had promised to protect them.

We are now convinced by the whole tenor of their behaviour, that all treaty and negociation, though on the most just and humane terms, will be fruitless; and in case it shall be thought expedient to oblige them to submit to his Majesty's government, or to yield up any part of the land they claim, it cannot be done without a sufficient force to terrify them into obedience. And we are of opinion, that their positive refusal to agree on the terms offered by us, on behalf of the Crown, or to take the oaths of allegiance, added to their avowed attachment to the French, makes it absolutely necessary for the security of the lives and property of the inhabitants, that some steps should immediately be taken to prevent their committing outrages unpunished.

We conceive it to be impossible that so small an island can long continue divided between a civilized people and savages, who are bound by no ties of law or religion; and who, from their situation among woods, are even exempted from fear of punishment. Every day produces some great inconvenience to the civilized inhabitants, by their slaves being enticed away, and harboured by these savages; and a declaration of a war with France threatens almost inevitable ruin to the colony, as experience teaches us, that the efforts of the French would not be wanting in stirring up such an enemy.

And we think that the sale of the lands is no longer the most important object, but the honour of the Crown now becomes concerned for the protection of its subjects, against a race of lawless people, who, when prompted by liquor, or ill-designing persons, may commit any kind of violence without being subject to controul.

We do not presume to prescribe any particular measures to your Lordships, but generally take the liberty of observing, that in our opinion, the most effectual means of reducing them to obedience, will be to carry a road through their country, under the protection of a sufficient military force; and after allotting them proper lands for their comfortable

portable subsistence, to sell the remainder ; which will very amply repay the expences incurred by the arrangement, and contribute to keep them in order, by mixing white inhabitants amongst them. We are, with great respect, Right Honourable Lords,

Your Lordships

most obedient, and

most humble servants,

WILLIAM YOUNG,

JOHN HUNT,

ROBERT WYNNE,

WILLIAM HEWITT.

Commissioners Office at
Dominica, 16 Oct. 1771.

Report

*Report of Mr. Maitland, and other persons concerned in the
Island of St. Vincent, to the Earl of Hillsborough.*

*To the Right Hon. the Earl of Hillsborough, one of his Majesty's principal
Secretaries of State.*

MY LORD,

YOUR Lordship having desired our opinion concerning the expediency of continuing the Black Charibbs upon, or the necessity of removing them from the island of St. Vincent, and if to be removed, where to be sent; we beg leave to observe that the negroes, called the Black Charibbs, are in possession of full two thirds of the cultivable and richest land in the island, which they have frequently declared their resolution not to quit one foot of; so that if they should by any temporary force be compelled to yield up any part of their claim, they will, we apprehend, re-assert their pretended rights as soon as that force is removed, or their friends the French give them any support.

So great a proportion of the island being in the hands of persons who can in no manner contribute to the support of the government of the island, either by paying their quota of the taxes, or by rendering their personal services, necessarily throws an heavy burthen upon a very few, particularly as to the personal services which are confined to his Majesty's natural born subjects; the other white inhabitants being incapable, through their ignorance of the English language and customs, of performing those duties. We farther beg leave to observe to your Lordship, that the parts of the island now in a state of cultivation, and possessed by white persons, are the most broken parts of the country; and that the weight of taxes has hitherto fallen so heavily upon the proprietors of those tracts, that the legislature of the island have not yet been able to raise a fund for erecting a jail, court house, and other necessary public buildings, nor can (as we conceive) this business be ever accomplished in the present state of the island; the constant expences of its government being the same, and the revenue to support them being to be raised from means incapable of bearing greater exactions. We therefore think, that if the Black Charibbs were even di-

vested of attachments to any other nation, and were well affected towards us; still the colony would cease to flourish while they remained in it; and probably would not long maintain the credit and consequence it has already obtained. We hold ourselves justified in this assertion, by the stop put to the progress of the cultivation and settlement of the colony for the last two years, during which time, neither the number of inhabitants, or the quantity of produce has increased; the first appearing by the muster roll of the militia, and the other by the Custom-house books.

We therefore beg leave to offer it as our opinion to your Lordship, that even supposing it practicable to eradicate from the minds of the Black Charibbs their present prejudices, and to reduce them to a temporary subjection, their inhabiting the island must ever prevent its farther progress towards a state of prosperity. In point of consequence, it might then hold its present standard, but can never exceed it.

But from our knowledge of the temper, disposition, and prejudices of these savages, we do not hold our property in the island of St. Vincent, or the lives of the white inhabitants, to be for a day secure from their depredations and cruelty. As the grounds of this our opinion, we beg leave to represent to your Lordship, that with a tincture of as much of the Popish religion as was necessary to infuse into them the strongest prejudices against persons they term Heretics, they have from their infancy conceived an attachment to the French, and their government, which has in no manner been diminished since the cession of the island; as they have constantly kept up an intercourse with the French in their settlements, and have refused to hold the least communication with the King's subjects, notwithstanding the pains taken by his Majesty's Commissioners, and by the legislative body of the island; and notwithstanding the separate attempts of the principal inhabitants of the island, to conciliate their minds, and reconcile them to our government and people. The policy of the French not permitting them to teach these savages anything more of religion than answered the purpose of prejudice, there subsists among them the utmost barbarity, which is not only practised by them upon each other, without any other punishment than what may arise from retaliation, but they, after encouraging our slaves to run away, have (upon their refusal to work for them, or to go off to the French islands to be sold) cruelly murdered them, and

and though the Magistrates have at times received full informations of the facts, and of the names and places of abode of the perpetrators, yet they have not been able to procure their warrants to be executed, no constable or civil officer daring to approach the criminal, or even to enter their country on such an errand; we do not conceive it possible to bind them to any terms, by ties either politic or religious. In support of this opinion, we must observe to your Lordship, that upon the cession of the island, when the fate of these savages seemed yet undetermined, they not only shewed the strongest tokens of humility in their declarations and behaviour, but seemed eager to embrace the terms offered by government, which were to admit them to take the oaths of allegiance, and to be received as subjects; accordingly great numbers of them took the oaths, and at the same time shewed, by their own explanations, that they perfectly understood what they were about; and expressed themselves much favoured and obliged by the footing on which they were put, readily consented to give up such lands as they could not themselves cultivate.

For a time they shewed no other instance of disaffection, but by keeping up their intercourse with the French settlements, and declining the same with the inhabitants of the island; but as soon as four companies of the regiment stationed at St. Vincent, were sent to Dominica, they immediately took up arms, and contrary to that allegiance they had just before sworn to, stopt the surveyors from proceeding in their business, took prisoners a party of forty soldiers, encamped to protect the surveyors, disavowed all allegiance to the King, to any subjection to the laws in express and positive terms. The Commissioners being forbid by their instructions to use any force against the Charibbs, the Commander of the island thought himself obliged to desist from any hostilities, and enter into a treaty with the savages, by which they were promised that no roads, or further surveys, should be made for the present in the woodlands, if they would suffer the troops they had surrounded to return, which was accordingly done. Elated with this success, and presuming on the moderation of government, they no longer thought it necessary to carry even the appearance of subjection, but immediately dispatched an embassy to Count D'Ennery, the Governor of Martinique, to inform him that they were now ready to cut off the English, and destroy all their settlement. To the humanity and honour of that officer (who dismissed

the Charibb Chiefs with not only the strongest expressions of horror at their proposal, but with threats) we hold ourselves indebted for the preservation of our estates and lives. Upon this repulse, the savages again affected an humble tone, but still kept up a communication with the French settlements, and constantly brought from thence, in return for the tobacco and fowls they sold, fire arms and ammunition. About this time the legislature of the island passed a law for raising a Militia. To this event we first conceived we owed the subjection to which the Charibbs seemed to be reduced; for they, about the same time, sent their Priest to the Commissioners, and to some of the principal inhabitants of the island, to assure them, they were sensible of their error; that they had been misled; and that they were then ready to submit in any manner the Commissioners required, both by giving up their lands, and acknowledging the King's sovereignty. But it was soon discovered that these appearances were but an artifice to conceal the treachery they were then meditating, for there being at that time a dispute between the courts of England and Spain, about Falkland's Island, which it was thought would terminate in an open rupture, and that the French would take a part in the war: the Charibbs were well informed of these circumstances, and some of their Chiefs were constantly in waiting at Martinique, for orders from the new French Governor, Count D'Ennery, being at that time recalled: but the business being accommodated between the two courts, and Sir William Young going out soon after, with instructions still more favourable to the Charibbs than any of the former, or than they seemed ever to have thought of themselves, a fair opportunity now offered for their confirmation of their promises, but they thought it no longer necessary to continue the deceit. As to the manner in which they received Sir William Young, and the other Commissioners, about the month of June last, at a congress which they seemed only to consider as an embassy from one state to another, disclaiming again the King's sovereignty over them, and avowing their resolution not to suffer any of the wood lands to be sold, their refusal to accept any of the presents offered by the Commissioners, in token of amity; and the little reserve shewn by them, in declaring that they were acting under the influence of the Governor of Martinique; we beg leave to refer your Lordship for farther particulars to the report which your Lordship may have received from the Board
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of Commissioners. The danger in which the legislature of St. Vincent considers that island to be in at this instant is fully set forth in their late memorial, to which we also beg leave to refer your Lordship.

From the circumstances we have related, and from many others which tend to our conviction, though too tedious to enumerate to your Lordship, we are persuaded that no act or measure of government can preserve the tranquillity of the island of St. Vincent, and put the property and lives of the inhabitants out of the danger of the inroads of the Black Charibbs, but their absolute and immediate removal from the island. As to the keeping them in order by a superior force, we must beg leave to observe to your Lordship, that the number of men able to bear arms double that of the colony. French deserters from the regiments at Martinique have been seen among them, from which we conclude, they are trained to the use of arms; we therefore do not think, that even whilst there continues a peace between England and France, that the peace of the island can be secured with less than two regiments; and in time of war, we cannot say what force will be necessary for the purpose; for the Black Charibbs being in possession of a great part of the coast, the enemy will at all times be secure of a landing, and of being conducted by them to the back of our settlements, in spite of any force. St. Lucia is not above six or seven leagues to the northward of St. Vincent, and the northernmost bay of the last is in the possession of the savages.

Should the Black Charibbs be once removed from the island, we conceive we then shall be able to put the Yellow Charibbs, or Aborigines, upon a footing as advantageous to St. Vincent, as the free negroes in Jamaica are upon to that island; for the French, considering the Yellow Charibbs too insignificant to do them either good or harm, have left them free from the prejudices they have instilled into the others, by which they remain fit objects for our service, as well as for our humanity and care; being inferior in number to the Whites already settled in the island, we shall be under no apprehensions of danger from them.

Should it be his Majesty's gracious will to remove those savages, the Black Charibbs, from the island, we think it would be as consistent with his Majesty's present intentions, as his Majesty's former humane conduct towards them, to permit them to name their own place of retreat, if they choose to do it; so as such choice does not tend to endanger the other

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colonies, or cause any breach of the treaties subsisting between England and other states. For as it is known that they have at times supposed that government intended to act in an hostile manner against them, and as their request, at the last peace, to retire to the island St. Lucia, was refused by the French Governor, it cannot, we apprehend, be doubted, but they have fixed upon some other asylum, to which it is probable they would now give the preference.

Should they not be immediately prepared to make such a choice, or should they not immediately agree among themselves upon a place to retire to, or should they name one exceptionable to government, we conceive that the removing them to the part of the world from whence their ancestors came, would as much correspond with their own inclinations, as with the clemency of his Majesty's purposes. And we think that any unoccupied tract of 10,000 acres of wood land, upon any part of the coast of Africa, having one or more rivers running through it, would afford them all the necessaries of life which they have been accustomed to. The climate being the same as that of St. Vincent, makes cloathing no more necessary to them than before; and by living on a sea coast, they would have the same opportunity of supporting themselves by fishing, as they have now in St. Vincent. Or they might be placed on the island of St. Matthew, situated in lat. 2. 31. S. an island of much the same size as St. Vincent, is totally uninhabited; and, as we understand, claimed by no particular power, farther than what the Portuguese may pretend to from their being the first discoverers; and which right, we presume, gives them an equal title to St. Helena, and other parts not now in their possession, though first discovered by them.

We are, &c.

RICHARD MAITLAND, Agent,
RICHARD OTTLEY,
JAMES GORDON,
C. P. SHARPE.
WILLIAM FITZPUGH.

Copie

Copie d'une Lettre de la part du Commandant de St. Lucie, au Gouverneur et Conseillers Caraybes à l'Isle de St. Vincent.

Au Gouvernement de St. Lucie ce Sept. 1771.

COMPERE Nous, notre Grand Général m'aporté plainte que plusieurs Caraybes, auxquels sa bonté paternel avoit permis de venir voir le Fort Royal, où ils se sont bien comportés, avoit fait une descente en s'en allant à St. Pierre à la Caze Navire, où ils s'étoient disputés avec un Papa, et que de là quelques Caraybes ont pris la hardiesse de tirer des flèches sur nos amis habitans de l'endroit, qui ont été obligé de les chasser à coups de fusils sans balles, ne voulant pas leur faire mal, parceque nos gens sçavent bien, Comperes Nous, que vous allez tout de suite connoître ceux qui ont faits faute, et que vous les punirez pour avoir manqué aux bons ordres et avis que vous leur donnés en partant d'être sages. Ainsi je vous prévien, Comperes Nous, que si vos gens s'avisent encore de faire mal, et de ne pas respecter la grande bonté et amitié de notre Général lorsqu' ils seront à la Martinique, il defendra et empêchera par des gros coups de canons que les piroques Caraybes ne mouillent au Fort Royal, ni à St. Pierre, ni dans aucun mouillage de toute la Martinique. Comperes Nous, j'en ferai autant; et vous avertis que je ne baillerai point de congé, si une autre fois notre Grand Général n'est pas content.

Adieu, Comperes Nous, &c.
 Votre bon Superieur à St. Lucie,
 Chevalier DEMICOURD,
 Commandant à St. Lucie.

SUPERSCRIBED,

Aux Gouverneurs et Conseillers Caraybes, Baremont, Bigot fils, Massolier, vieux Gabriel, et Pierre la Goudriere, Saladon, Joseph, François, Joachin, et Jean Pierre des Parties du Vent Sous le Vent, et du Go Enbou.

à l'Isle de St. Vincent.

Letter

*Letter from Governor Leyborne to the Earl of Hillsborough.**Grenada, 30 November, 1771.*

MY LORD,

I THINK it my duty to transmit to your Lordship the inclosed original letter from the Governor of St. Lucia, under a very extraordinary address, which was intercepted, and has been sent to me by the President commanding at St. Vincent. It is obvious by this letter that the French have encouraged, and acknowledged the Charibbs to be an independent people, and seems to confirm the suspicions that have been long entertained of their influence on their conduct. As I am afraid it will be impossible to bring those savages to a proper sense of duty to his Majesty, by acknowledging his Sovereignty, and accepting of his favour and protection, I must beg leave to submit to your Lordship's consideration, whether it might not be proper to take some steps to force these people to obedience, since the gentle methods that were practised by Sir William Young had not the desired effect, but, on the contrary, were looked upon to have proceeded from timidity; and as the regiments on this Government are expected shortly to be relieved, and we have so respectable a fleet in these seas, with the state of tranquillity that now subsists with our neighbours, if force is ever to be used, I am humbly of opinion there is no time so proper as upon the relief of the troops.

I have the honour to be, &c.

WILLIAM L. LEYBORNE.

The

*The Humble Address and Memorial of the Council and Assembly of the
Island of St. Vincent to His Majesty, on the subject of the Charibbs,
in that Island.*

May it please your Majesty.

WE your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects the Council and Assembly of this your island of St. Vincent, on behalf of ourselves, and every other inhabitant of this infant Colony, beg leave again to approach your Most Excellent Majesty, and to represent to you in the strongest terms the dangers with which we are surrounded, in order that your Majesty may (before it is too late) direct such vigorous measures to be taken, as we apprehend can alone secure the tranquillity of this island, or preserve the lives and properties of your faithful subjects. And whatever reluctance we have to interrupt by our complaints, that happiness which we pray your Majesty may ever enjoy, yet a regard to the trust reposed in us for the common good of this Colony, will not permit us to be silent under circumstances so alarming as the present: being anxious that whenever any of those dreadful events happen, which we too well foresee, we may at least be conscious of having discharged our duty, and left nothing in our conduct, either to reproach ourselves with, or to expose us to the censure of others, who must suffer in the general ruin.

The fears and apprehensions expressed in our former address to your Majesty, with respect to the Charibbs of this island, are now become certain dangers; and the acquisition of their lands (however valuable it might prove to your Majesty's revenue) has for some time past been only a secondary, and very inferior object, having yielded to a more important and natural consideration, the security of our property, and the safety of our persons. For, by the facts which are to be the subject of our present address, we are persuaded that your Majesty will observe with concern the unhappy situation of your subjects, and will at the same time be convinced, that the only alternative left this day to the British Crown, is this, either tamely to acknowledge that it has no right of Sovereignty in the lands of the Charibbs, or to consider them as a nest of most dangerous and insolent rebels.

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Encouraged and supported by a few individuals (who, regardless of your Majesty's rights, and of the public security, have made private contracts with these savages for the lands they occupy, through your Royal Clemency) the Charibbs are now taught to deny the right of the British Crown to the most considerable part of the island of St. Vincent, and to affect an independent neutrality, as well as an exemption from all civil jurisdiction or subordination whatsoever; yet a few months since, when we daily expected to be involved in war, they but too plainly betrayed the strong attachment they had to that nation, with whose subjects and language they have been so long conversant, and whose interest they are ready at any time to espouse, to the prejudice of those of your Majesty, and to the sacrifice of our lives and fortunes. It was not to your Majesty's Governor, but to the Governor at Martinique, that they resorted at that juncture; it was not your alliance and protection, but that of France, they then courted; in a word, it was with the French, and not with us, they offered to join arms, when they expected a rupture between the two nations. The good reception and encouragement they met with from the French General, was hardly justifiable even at that season; but the continuance of their intercourse in the midst of peace, and the style of the correspondence lately discovered between the Governor of St. Lucia and these rebellious people, are insults offered to your Majesty's Crown, and the clearest proof of the advantages the French intend to derive, in time of war, by preserving a good understanding with the Charibbs. In this situation, what safety, what tranquillity can we hope for? What have we not to fear, surrounded by lawless savages in strength and number far superior to ourselves, and now notoriously at the disposal, and ready implicitly to obey the commands of a foreign enemy.

From these circumstances, your Majesty will little wonder at the repeated ill success which your Commissioners have met with in their treaties with the Charibbs. Not content with refusing to relinquish the least part of those vast tracts of land, which they hold in a manner useless to themselves, and prejudicial to your Majesty in every respect, they have at last, in a solemn meeting of their Chiefs, given their final determination not to accept of your proffered protection, or gracious intentions towards them, and never to swear allegiance to your Majesty, or consider themselves as governed by, or subject to the Crown

Crown of Great Britain. And just now, when a due attention to your Majesty's rights, and to the safety of this island, had induced the legislature to exert their authority to compel the intruders to quit possession of the Crown lands, the Charibbs, instigated no doubt by those disappointed adventurers, have again blocked up the road close to the windwardmost settlement made by your Majesty's subjects. Thus are we daily exposed to the insults of savages, who, whilst they travel armed and unmolested through our country at pleasure, forbid us every intercourse or communication with their lands; and we are forced tamely to submit (within the narrow compass of a small island) to see a distinct race of lawless people pass and repass amongst us, over whom (let them commit what foul crimes or disorders they please) our civil policy has neither jurisdiction nor authority.

Permit us to observe, with all due respect, that your Majesty's subjects in this island purchased the Crown lands at no inconsiderable prices; and that they have adventured their health and fortune, and strained their utmost credit, in the prosecution of settlements already beneficial, and likely to be extremely advantageous to your Majesty's Revenue. This they did under firm assurance of your royal protection; and that nothing would be wanting to put their persons and properties on as secure a footing as those of subjects in the sister islands. They hoped too, that ere long the most valuable parts of the island were to be settled in like manner, by other British subjects, whose numbers would have added strength and security to the possessions of the whole; and who, by bearing a share of the public taxes and duties, would in some measure have eased the first settlers from a burthen which they are but little able to support. Instead of these prospects, we have the melancholy one of beholding our lives and properties left to the mercy of savages, bound by no ties civil or religious, disaffected to your Majesty, and ill-disposed towards your subjects; of seeing the whole extensive windward side of the island in their possession, and likely ever to remain in a state of nature, useless to your Majesty, and dangerous to ourselves; of finding ourselves without a military force sufficient to reduce the Indians to obedience, or even to defend us against them in case of an attack; and of foreseeing, that if these our intestine enemies are still suffered to remain in the country on their present footing, a declaration of war between your Majesty and the Crown of France,

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at any future day, will be opened with the immediate destruction of all your Majesty's rights, and our possessions, and perhaps too with the massacre of all your subjects in this island of St. Vincent.

It is not for us to dictate to the wisdom of your Majesty's Councils, what measures to resolve on in so dangerous a crisis, yet we cannot but observe, that the suffering such a separate empire as these Indians claim, within your Majesty's dominions, is not only incompatible with the safety of your subjects, but highly derogatory from the honour and dignity of the British Crown; that lenity, and every humane expedient to bring them to a reasonable subjection, has now been long tried without success; that with natures incapable of gratitude or sentiment, the mild hand of benevolence evidently loses its effect; and lastly, that a continuance of the same indulgences to the Charibbs will only serve (as it has already done) to increase their insolence, and cannot fail of being eventually the greatest cruelty to the subjects of this island.

HEN. SHARPE, President.

JOHN GILBERT, Speaker of the Assembly.

Extra

Extract of a letter from Gov. Melvill to Lord Hillsborough, dated Grenada, 5th July, 1770.

I Observe what your Lordship says, in relation to the free negroes or black inhabitants of St. Vincent (who having partly intermixed with the native Yellow Indians, are pretty commonly stiled here the Black Charibbs, and sometimes in England the Wild Negroes).

There have been lately here, about 50 of the most sensible of them, in three different boats, and they have been at much pains with me, to express their high respect for, and obedience to his Majesty's government, denying any attachment to the French; and saying that this is only alledged against them by their enemies, who want to sell or buy their lands, and have made the King angry with them, who gave such good orders about them at first, and would not have taken any of their lands from them, but have left them quietly to possess them, or sell them at their own price; meaning thereby, as I understood, chiefly, if not entirely, the parcels of land which they actually occupy, and are living on. In answer, I did allow their having behaved themselves very quietly at all times while I have been in the government, but reproached them with three things.

First, That they had not obeyed, but in a very small number, a proclamation which I had issued, in conformity to his Majesty's instructions, and by the advice of the Council of St. Vincent, in 1767, requiring them to come in and take the oaths, as faithful subjects to King.

Secondly, That they had been always in the practice of carrying on an illicit trade with the French islands, and bringing fire arms and ammunition from them. And

Lastly, That they had obstructed, and at last prevented, the completing of a road in their country, and other operations by his Majesty's Commissioners, acting by his Majesty's orders.

As to the first, some only asserted their not having heard of, others their not having well understood the proclamation; but all affirmed, that it did not proceed from any attachment to the King of France, or a want of *it* to our King.

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As to the second, they did not deny it, but endeavoured to extenuate their intercourse with the French islands, by saying it was not so great as alledged, but only that some went to sell tobacco, and other little articles, which they could not do with us, and might sometimes bring back fire arms and ammunition, which was only for the use of killing game in the woods; persisting likewise, that the story of the skirmish between the canoes and the English sloop, was an absolute falshood, as it really appears to have been. And,

As to the last of my charges, they said they did not believe it was the King himself, but those that were their enemies, and had interest to be against them, that wanted to sell or buy their lands without their own consent; and which the King would not do, if he knew they were desirous of remaining quiet and good subjects.

Whether these people have been persuaded to hold this language by some persons at St. Vincent, or induced by some ideas getting amongst them, that an extraordinary force is to be brought to over awe them, I know not; but although I never had any instructions relating to them, since the general ones (which were so indulgent and favourable) excepting an order to give the Commissioners all proper support and assistance in their operations respecting them, yet I thought it a part of my general duty, as Governor of St. Vincent, to dismiss them, as far as I could, with strong impressions of obedience to the King; and therefore concluded with detailing to them the great power of his Majesty, as well as his eminent justice, humanity, and goodness; and strongly recommended to them, not only as a duty, but for their own sakes, to respect and obey his authority in all cases whatever, through the Commissioners, or others.

With such dispositions they have apparently gone back, and I hope they will equally communicate them to all the rest.

Extract

*Extract of a letter from the Earl of Hillsborough to Governor Melvill,
dated Whitehall, 21 April, 1770.*

“THESE, Sir, are all the commands I have to signify to you from his Majesty, relative to the island of Grenada; nor am I yet able to give you any particular instructions with respect to the island of St. Vincent, which, on account of its situation with respect to the Black Charibbs, is so much an object of attention.

“The measures which it may be proper to pursue, for inducing those savages to acknowledge his Majesty's sovereignty, and to submit to the just and humane conditions which have been offered to them, are now under consideration, and proper instructions will be given in time, for any operation it may be thought adviseable to enter upon. In the mean time it ought to be well considered, whether it may not be necessary for the general security of that island, that some batteries should be erected for the defence of the principal harbours and landing places, and what cannon and stores will be wanted. And as I have no papers before me, that will enable me to judge with precision of what may be requisite for this purpose, it is the King's pleasure, that if there is an engineer at Grenada that can be spared, he should be employed in making such survey of the island of St. Vincent, as will enable you to make a full report to me of what shall be judged necessary, both as to the places where it may be proper to erect batteries, and what cannon and stores it will be proper to send from hence.”

Letter

*Letter from Lieutenant Governor Fitzmaurice to the Earl of Hillsborough,
dated Grenada, 12th Feb. 1770.*

MY LORD,

SINCE I have last had the honour of writing to your Lordship, concerning the Charibbs of St. Vincent, no event has happened there, by which a judgment may be formed, what their conduct is likely to prove, whenever his Majesty's instructions for the sale of the lands, on the windward side of that island, shall be carried into execution; at present, however, they appear to be quiet; nor has any disturbance happened in consequence of the imprisonment of one of their Chiefs, who is accused of having set fire to the house of a person in whom they formerly had confidence, but who they thought had betrayed them.

In this situation, I have not thought myself at liberty to make any requisition of troops from the Commander in Chief of his Majesty's forces in North America. But I still apprehend it will be prudent, if not absolutely necessary, whenever measures are taken for the disposal of the lands claimed by the Charibbs, to have a greater force than is at present in these islands, in order to retain them in that awe and submission to his Majesty's pleasure concerning them, which the mildest treatment cannot alone insure from a people on whose professions there can be no dependence.

I am, &c.

ULYSSES FITZMAURICE.

Extract

Extract from the Report of the Commissioners for the Sale of Lands in the Ceded Islands, to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, dated July 26th, 1769.

HAVING finished every thing necessary for this year at Grenada, we embarked for St. Vincent, where, in obedience to our instructions from the Right Honourable the Lord Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, relating to the settlement of the windward part of that island, before we attempted any measures that might occasion the least alarm amongst the Charibbs, we had taken every precaution directed by their Lordships, and used all possible means of making them acquainted with his Majesty's gracious disposition towards them; and for that purpose employed different persons, whom we thought to have the greatest influence over them as emissaries, to explain the arrangements intended; and had several interviews with many of them in their own country, where we went to meet. From the temper of those with whom we conversed, and the reports we had of the sentiments of the rest, we did not conceive any difficulty would arise in the execution of their Lordships instructions, we therefore directed the Surveyors to begin a road at the river Coubimaron, which is the boundary of the country claimed by the Charibbs; judging that the most useful step to set out with, as it would open a communication with the settled part of the island, and thereby render the land more valuable, give an opportunity of discovering the number and situation of the Charibbs, and at the same time greatly facilitate the survey of the country. With this road the Surveyors proceeded to a place called Masserica, about eight miles distant, in a strait line from where they began. In the course of their work they were met with some few Indians, who appeared discontented at the progress of the road, and heard rumours of an intended opposition to the continuation of it, which induced us to request of the Governor of the island, a party of soldiers to protect the Surveyors in the execution of their duty. After the party was granted, the business was for some time carried on without interruption, or further shew of discontent amongst the Charibbs, in so much that it was judged inconvenient and unnecessary,

that the regiment should have a large detachment at so great a distance from the barracks, no more than a Serjeant's guard was continued. On the approach of the Surveyors near Masserica, it was thought proper to build some new huts, and to advance the soldiers more into the country, that they might be at hand, to give any assistance, if required. This occasioned fresh discontents, and it was therefore judged necessary to increase the guard to the number of forty men; who, on march towards the huts prepared for their reception, were stopped by some of the Black Indians, acquainting them, that a large party was assembled, and determined to oppose their taking possession of the huts; and that they would not suffer the English to carry on the road into the country, or to have any settlement there; and that they did not acknowledge any obedience to the King of Great Britain, or to the French King, being a free people. To these threats the soldiers paid no attention, but marched up to the post, where they discovered a party of Indians assembled, about three hundred in number, well armed, who after some altercations, were prevailed upon by arguments, to retire to a small distance, where they remained in arms. Soon afterwards intelligence was brought to the President of the island, that the Indians had surrounded the party posted in the country, and cut off their communication of the road, so that no provisions or succours could be conveyed to them, which occasioned a considerable alarm in the island, and it was judged expedient to march out the remainder of the regiment to their relief. Sir William Young being the only Commissioner on the island, thought proper, on behalf of the Board, to communicate to the President our instructions on this subject, and was clearly of opinion, that nothing was to be undertaken in the present weak state of the colony, that might endanger the peace and security of; and that by the instructions, no authority was given to commence hostilities; and as it appeared impracticable to carry into execution the plan for settling that part of the country, in the manner directed by their Lordships (that is with a mild and gentle hand) that he did no longer require the aid of his Majesty's troops to support the Surveyors; as will appear by his letter to the President, a copy of which we have the honour herewith to transmit to your Lordship, and by the other letters which are also sent, your Lordships may be the better enabled to judge of the behaviour of the Charibbs on this occasion.

At

At a meeting of the Board soon afterwards, Sir William Young communicated to the Commissioners what had past, and what he had declared on their behalf to the President, which was unanimously approved of; and orders were immediately given to the Surveyors to desist from any further surveys in the country.

Notwithstanding this caution, and the great pains since taken to assure the Charibbs they would be permitted to remain in perfect peace and tranquillity till the King's further pleasure should be known, and that their safety and happiness depended on their future good behaviour, they have even proceeded to acts of violence without the least provocation; they have blocked up in many places the high road we had caused to be traced into the country; burnt the houses of a person employed by us on behalf of his Majesty, merely because he had been useful in the service; and have threatened other outrages, and particularly (as we have received intelligence) formed a design to burn his Majesty's barracks at Prince's Bay, built at a very great expence, and in the center of a settled part of the country, at a great distance from what they inhabit or claim.

The instructions we have now from their Lordships, are, in our humble opinions, as proper any that could have been devised, for the purpose of settling the windward part of the country; but experience now shews us, that it will be impossible, without imminent danger to the colony, to compleat any settlements or arrangements with them, let the terms proposed be every so tender or advantageous, without a force sufficient to restrain and awe them into obedience; for which purpose it will be highly necessary to have a considerable military force upon the island, before we again attempt to carry our instructions into execution, as we find their numbers greatly exceed what we formerly apprehended.

We have the greatest reason to think that suffering the Charibbs to remain in their present state will be very dangerous, and may at some period prove fatal to the inhabitants of the country, as their situation, surrounded with woods, makes any access to them, for the purpose of executing justice, totally impracticable; and they will from thence be capable of committing all outrages unpunished; of harbouring the slaves of the inhabitants

habithants of the island, as well as of all the neighbouring islands; of sheltering amongst them vagabonds and deserters from the French; and, in case of a rupture with France, it is probable, they will join in distressing the inhabitants, and in attempting to conquer the island.

We can now assure your Lordships, that the country is full as extensive as it was even represented; the soil excellent, and perfectly well adapted to the cultivation of sugar; and if the plan of settlement is carried into execution, will be equal to any of his Majesty's islands in those seas.

Representation

Representation of the Board of Trade to the King, dated 29th March, 1770.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

May it please your Majesty,

THE Commissioners for the sale of your Majesty's lands in the Ceded Islands, in the West Indies, having made to us a report of their proceedings in the last year, in the execution of their commission, which report we did not receive till this day, we think it our duty to lose no time in humbly laying before your Majesty the annexed extract of so much of the said report as relates to their transactions in the island of St. Vincent; to the difficulties they met with in carrying their instructions into execution in that island, from the opposition given to the survey thereof by the Black Charibbs; and to the peril and danger to which the inhabitants of the said island, and the security of the island itself stands exposed, from the hostile and violent disposition of those savages; and as we do entirely concur in opinion with your Majesty's said Commissioners, that it will be impossible, without imminent danger to the Colony, to complete the settlement of that very important and valuable island, without such a considerable military force as shall be sufficient to induce the said savages to acknowledge your Majesty's title to St. Vincent, and to submit to the measures ordered by your Majesty to be pursued for the settlement of it: We therefore humbly beg leave to submit this matter to your Majesty, as requiring immediate consideration.

Which is most humbly submitted,

SOAME JENYNS,
GEO. RICE,
WM. FITZHERBERT,
LISBURNE.

Whitehall, 29th March, 1770.

The

The Memorial of sundry Proprietors of Lands in St. Vincent, now in London, in behalf of themselves and the Planters of that Island.

Humbly Sheweth,

THAT nearly two thirds of the cultivable and best lands of St. Vincent, remain in the possession of the Black Charibbs, but a very small proportion of which has ever yet been cleared of woods, as may appear upon examination of a map in the possession of Sir William Young, his Majesty's first Commissioner for the sale of lands in the Ceded Islands.

That by the culture of such lands as are at present, and must for ever be unnecessary to that people, his Majesty's revenue will be greatly increased; and, from the accession of inhabitants, the island may, in some degree, be rendered defensible.

That in obedience to his Majesty's instructions to his Commissioners to sell such lands as shall remain unoccupied, after allotting to the Charibbs very sufficient quantities for their support and happiness, every measure had been pursued by the Commissioners that could tend to conciliate their affections, and make them sensible of his Majesty's most gracious intentions respecting them.

That they nevertheless, from groundless fears and jealousies, assembled in arms, very much to the terror of the inhabitants; that they denied the Sovereignty of the King, and obliged the Surveyors to retire with precipitation from that part of the country, as hath been before represented in an address to his Majesty from the legislature.

That they live without order, or any laws for their good government; that the barbarities exercised by them upon the native Indians, who first afforded them protection, have been such, that the few who are left alive, have been compelled to seek an asylum amongst his Majesty's subjects.

That they applied to Count D'Ennery, the Governor of Martinique, for assistance of men and arms to drive the English from the island; and proposed to him, on their parts, to set fire to their settlements.

That they seized and sold, in the neighbouring French islands, several negroe slaves belonging to the planters of St. Vincent; some of whom

whom were very lately restored to their owners by order of the French Governor.

That it is not the wish of your memorialists, from what hath been related, that the Charibbs should be otherwise dealt with than in a manner entirely becoming humanity. They pray only that his Majesty will be graciously pleased to extend his protection to themselves, that as they desire not the destruction of others, they be secured in their own lives and properties; which they humbly conceive can never be effected whilst the Charibbs are permitted to remain in their present lawless state, and possessors of so considerable a share of the island; through which, in a future war, his Majesty's subjects will at all times be exposed to the sudden incursions of an enemy.

That your memorialists believe, from their knowledge of the nature and dispositions of the Charibbs, that if a force sufficient to reduce them was speedily to be sent to the island, they would acknowledge the Sovereignty and Domain of his Majesty; and that every necessary arrangement might be made with facility, and perhaps without the loss of one life.

That your memorialists do not apprehend that any other force would be requisite to effect this purpose, than the addition of a regiment to the one already in the island, with a detachment from that in Antigua; and such other assistance as may be conveniently given by the Commander of his Majesty's Squadron, stationed in those seas.

That if the above forces arrive in St. Vincent some time in the month of April, your memorialists are persuaded, that the whole business may be compleated before the wet season sets in.

Your memorialists further represent to your Lordship, that the island of St. Vincent, from the want of proper forts and batteries, is in so defenceless a state, that it will, in time of war, be constantly exposed to the attacks of privateers; from which a number of the enemy may at any time land and destroy the estates, without a possibility of any effectual opposition being made; and that although orders should be immediately sent for the purpose, yet the difficulty of procuring artificers to undertake and build public works is so great, that much time must necessarily elapse in carrying them into execution.

That they apprehend your Lordship will think the island of St. Vincent well worth the particular attention of Government, when
your

your Lordship shall be pleased to consider, that in the first place its own resources have, even in its infant state, exceeded the expence of its support; and in the next, that what your memorialists now require for the defence of the island, is less than will be the amount of the duty upon sugar from it, to be imported this year only into England, although not one sixth part of the land be yet planted with canes.

That although they have purchased their lands of the Crown at great prices (the purchase-money not yet satisfied) have expended large sums of money in the cultivation and settlement of their estates; and although they are obliged to pay a heavy island tax, there being no less than six thousand pounds sterling raised in the year 1769, besides parochial assessments for the support of incumbents, repairs of churches, maintenance of the poor, &c. besides taxes raised in the towns for their better regulation; and rather a probability of the country tax increasing than diminishing, as no funds have yet been raised for erecting gaols, and other public buildings; yet as they are desirous to manifest their affectionate duty to his Majesty, and to shew themselves in every instance deserving of the care and protection of his Government, they are satisfied (unequal as they are at present to such an additional burthen) to lay the tax of 4 and a half per cent, by a law of their own legislature, upon the same establishment as it is laid and levied in Barbadoes, by an act of that island, in expectation that proper arrangements be made to secure their properties from the attacks of an enemy, and their families from the insults and massacre of savages. That a sum not exceeding 20,000l. be granted for putting the island in a proper state of defence; and that a regiment be stationed in it.

All which matters your memorialists humbly beg leave to offer to your Lordships consideration, and to request your Lordships intercession with his Majesty on their behalf; and your memorialists shall ever pray, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD MAITLAND, Agent,
THO. HACKSHAW,
WAT. JENKINS,
WM. YOUNG,
RICHARD OTTLEY,
C. P. SHARPE,
WM. FITZHUGH.

London, 22d Jan. 1770.

Deposition

*Deposition of John Quinland.**St. Vincent.*

BEFORE Gilbert Gillock, Esq; one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for said island, personally appeared John Quinland, master of the sloop Ranger, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposeth and sayeth :

That on the 21st instant he departed from the Bay of Kingston, in the said island, to cruize between that and St. Lucia, pursuant to orders received from the President of said island ; on which station he continued till the 24th, when he steer'd for and came to an anchor, about five in the morning, in the Bay of Souffriere, at St. Lucia ; that on his arrival there he sent his boat along the coast, to see if there were any Indian canoes in the out-bays, but not finding any, the next day he got under sail, and stood along the shore of St. Lucia to the Southward ; and afterwards being two leagues in the channel between that island and St. Vincent, he discovered four canoes, which proved Black Charibbs, and each canoe to have nineteen or more of those people on board ; that he fired to bring them to, in order to examine them, agreeable to his orders ; on which they immediately pulled down their sails, and took to their paddles, making towards the sloop as fast as they could ; that the sloop at that time was becalmed ; and perceiving them in coming up to lay hold of some musquets, and having but nine men on board, he made signs for only one of the canoes to approach at a time ; that notwithstanding they persisted to come up together, on which he fired into them, which they returned, and rowed on with a seeming intention to board the vessel ; that soon after this he sunk one of the canoes at a distance, and a little time after another, the crews of which took to swimming with cutlasses in their mouths, and made directly towards the sloop, which they very near reached when he sunk the other canoes as they came along side ; that they still persisted to board, which he prevented by opposing them as they endeavoured to get up the sides, by destroy-

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ing them with bayonets; that by this means he killed most of them; and the wind springing up, he left those that remained to shift for themselves. The deponent further adds, that their canoes were loaded with kegs, from which he saw them supply themselves with cartridges to load their arms; and that early in the engagement, he had two men killed and one wounded.

Signed,

JOHN QUINLAND.

Sworn before me this

29th of August, 1769.

Signed

G. HILLOCK.

Orders

Orders for the Masters of the armed Vessels.

YOU are to cruize about the island in such places as from time to time shall appear to you most expedient; and in case of your meeting with any party of Charibbs, who have been guilty of any hostility in any part of the island, or to any of his Majesty's subjects, you are to do your endeavours to apprehend any such Charibbs; and in case of their resistance, or you being able to apprehend them without force, you are to take all necessary measures for compelling them to submission; and in case of your having intelligence of any such party of offending Charibbs, you are immediately to pursue them.

In case of your meeting, or seeing at sea, or along the coast, any party of Charibbs, whom you may have cause to suspect to be going on any ill design, to any part of the island, or shall meet or see more than two pirogues of Charibbs in company, you shall apprehend the same; and in case of their resistance, you are to use necessary means to compel them. In case you shall see or meet any Charibbs at sea, carrying from the island any slaves, or any of them importing into the island any prohibited commodities, or arms, ammunition, or warlike stores, you are to apprehend them; and in case of resistance, to use necessary means to compel them.

Signed,

HENRY SHARPE.*Letter*

*Letter from Lieutenant Governor Fitzmaurice, to the Earl
of Hillsborough.*

Grenada, September 24th, 1769.

MY LORD,

UPON repeated information given to the President of St. Vincent, that there was a constant communication maintained between the refractory Charibbs, and the inhabitants of the French island of St. Lucia; and by whom the former were supplied with warlike ammunition, as well as other foreign merchandise prohibited, to be imported into British colonies, an armed vessel, by the direction of the two branches of the legislature, and the instructions of which I inclose a copy to your Lordship, were prepared by the Council, and given by the President to the Captain; in consequence of which he soon met in the channel, between St. Vincent and St. Lucia, four canoes, with a considerable number of armed Charibbs, who not only resisted, but attacked and endeavoured to board him. The account of the proceedings is contained in the deposition of the Captain, which is here inclosed, and of which there is no reason to doubt the truth. What effect this event may produce is not easy to foresee; but I have not since heard of any disturbance.

The inhabitants of that colony are however impatient to learn his Majesty's intentions concerning these Indians, and are frequently apprehensive of sudden attacks from them; the greatest dread seems to be, that they will set fire to the buildings and plantations; the presence of the troops have probably contributed to prevent hitherto such attempts. I have the honour to be, with great respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient
and most humble Servant,

ULYSSES FITZMAURICE.

Letter from the Earl of Hillsborough to the Lords of the Admiralty.

My LORDS,

WHITEHALL, April 16, 1772.

THE King having thought fit to direct Lieutenant General Gage to send a force from North America to the Island of St. Vincent, in order to reduce the black Charibbs of that island to a due submission to his Majesty's authority and government, and it being of material consequence to the success of this expedition, that during the operation of the King's troops, all intercourse should be prevented between those people and the French King's subjects, in the islands of Martinico and St. Lucca, and that the Charibbs should be convinced of the impossibility of their escaping to either of those islands. It is his Majesty's pleasure, that your Lordships do give the necessary directions to the commander of his Majesty's ships upon the Leeward Island station, for the effectuating these purposes, and that he do give all the assistance in his power in the conveyance to, and from the different islands, of the troops which may be necessary to be sent to St. Vincents, and, in general, in whatever else may conduce to the carrying his Majesty's intentions into execution, for the reduction of these rebellious savages.

And it is also his Majesty's pleasure, that in case the Governor of Grenada shall find it necessary to remove the Charibbs from St. Vincents, the Commander of his Majesty's ships do appoint a proper convoy for the transports that are to convey them, to take care, on the one hand, to prevent or repress any attempts they may make against the masters of the transports, and on the other, that they be treated, during their passage, with all the humanity their situation will admit of, and when set on shore, that the supplies intended for them be faithfully delivered.

I am, &c.

HILLSBOROUGH.

Lords of the Admiralty.

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Letter

Letter from the Earl of Hillsborough to Lord Viscount Barrington, Secretary at War.

My LORD,

WHITEHALL, April 16, 1772.

THE King having thought fit, upon the representations that have been made to his Majesty, of the danger to which the island of St. Vincent is exposed, from the hostile and rebellious disposition of the Charibbs, to signify his commands, that a military force should be employed, to reduce them to a submission to his Majesty's government, and that such military force should consist of such part of the troops now stationed in the Ceded Islands, as can be spared from other necessary duties, and two regiments be sent from North America, and that they should, if required by Governor Leyborne, be joined by the regiment in the Leeward Islands; I have accordingly signified his Majesty's commands for that purpose to Lieutenant General Gage, to Governor Leyborne, to Sir William Young, and to Sir Ralph Payne, and I am to acquaint your Lordship, that it is his Majesty's pleasure, that you do give such directions in consequence thereof, as belong to your Lordship's department.

I am, &c.

HILLSBOROUGH.

Lord Viscount Barrington:

Letter

Letter from the Earl of Hillsborough to Governor Leyborne.

Separate and Secret.

S I R,

WHITEHALL, April 18, 1772.

SINCE my Letter to you of the 4th of March last, your dispatch, No. 3, and the address of the Council and Assembly of St. Vincent, concerning the Charibbs, have been made the subject matter of the serious deliberations of his Majesty's confidential servants.

The representations contained in that address, and in a Letter from the Commissioners for the Sale of Lands to the Lords of the Treasury, of the danger to which the Island is exposed, from the hostile disposition of the Charibbs, and the declarations they have made, that they not only will never submit themselves as subjects to his Majesty, but on the contrary, of their attachment to the crown of France, have induced the King, upon the opinion of his Majesty's servants, to resolve to take effectual measures for the reduction of them, as the only means of giving security to the settlements of his Majesty's subjects in that Island.

It is hoped, that the troops now dispersed in the several islands under your Government, and in Dominica, when so many of them as can be spared from other necessary duty, are collected together, and joined by two battalions from North America, will be a force sufficient for this service; and I have accordingly signified his Majesty's commands to general Gage, that he do, as soon as possible, send two battalions of the troops under his command to the island of St. Vincent; and I have also signified his Majesty's pleasure to Sir Ralph Payne, that in case, from any unhappy, though unexpected event, you should find it necessary to call for assistance from his Government, he do immediately send you the whole, or such part of the regiment stationed in the Leeward Islands, as you shall require.

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Besides the land forces to be employed upon this occasion, it has also been thought expedient, that the commander of his Majesty's naval force on the Leeward Island station, should give every assistance in his power; and I have signified his Majesty's pleasure to the Lords of the Admiralty, that they do instruct him accordingly.

It is the King's pleasure, that this service should be carried on under your direction, assisted by a Council, to be composed of the Governor of Dominica, the Commanders in Chief of the Land and Sea Forces, and the Lieutenant Governor and Council of St. Vincent, or such of them as shall be present on the Island; and as the troops will arrive at a season when it is much to be wished they should stay as short a time as possible, I am to signify to you his Majesty's commands, that you do, as soon as you conveniently can, repair to the Island of St. Vincent, in order to concert, in the manner above-mentioned, the steps it may be proper to take for carrying his Majesty's intentions into execution, and to make such preparations as may tend to forward and facilitate your operations, when the troops are collected together.

What those steps should be depends upon a variety of circumstances, impossible to be known or decided upon here, and therefore you must, in that respect, be left to your own judgment and discretion. The King however hopes, that the Charibbs, when the resolution of government to subdue them is known, and they see the force prepared for that purpose, will judge differently of their situation, and by a full submission, avoid both to themselves, and to his Majesty's troops, the disagreeable consequences of using that force; and it will be your care to endeavour, by every means in your power, to bring if possible this important business to that issue, and to induce the Charibbs to submit themselves to his Majesty's government, to disavow all attachment to the French, to be content with such a portion of the island as shall be thought proper to be allotted to

to them, and to consent to such conditions of peace and amity as shall be judged necessary for securing their fidelity, and rendering them useful subjects instead of dangerous enemies. But if neither persuasion nor intreaty shall have the consequence to produce these effects, you will then, and in that case only, have recourse to force, avoiding however, even under that exigence, as much as possible any unnecessary severities, that may have the appearance of cruelty or oppression.

You will perceive, from what I have already said, that in whatever mode the submission of the Charibbs is obtained, whether by force or lenity, the desirable object is to continue them on the Island, under conditions that may be a sufficient pledge of safety, and with an allotment of such a portion of the Island as shall be judged necessary.

It is under these hopes that I am commanded to recommend to your consideration the conditions settled with the rebellious negroes in Jamaica, upon their reduction in 1738, and to send you the inclosed copy of the treaty made with them, which, allowing for difference of circumstances, may possibly furnish you with some useful hints.

After what I have said, it is with great reluctance that I look forward to the consideration of what may be fit to be done, if neither lenity nor force shall have the effect to induce such a submission of these savages as may consist with public safety : It is however an unavoidable consideration, and it is his Majesty's pleasure, in consequence of a representation of several of the principal planters in St. Vincent (a copy of which I enclose) that if necessity demand the removal of the Charibbs, you do take up such vessels as can be procured, to serve as transports for the conveyance of them to some unfrequented part of the coast of Africa, or to some desert island adjacent thereto, care being taken that they be treated upon the voyage with every degree of humanity their situation will admit of ; and that when put on shore, they be supplied with provisions, and whatsoever

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may

may be judged necessary to subsist them for a reasonable time, and with such tools and implements as may enable them to provide for their future subsistence. And for the more certain execution of this service, I have signified his Majesty's pleasure to the Lords of the Admiralty, that they do instruct the Commander upon the Leeward Island station, to appoint a proper convoy for the transports, in case the measure for the removal shall be adopted.

You will observe, Sir, that I have marked this Letter as *separate and secret*, and I am persuaded you will agree with me in opinion, of the propriety of avoiding, as much as possible, any discovery of our intentions, lest those infatuated savages should become desperate, and commit some fatal acts of hostility before the arrival of the troops.

The King has been pleased to attend to this danger, and has commanded me to signify his Majesty's pleasure to the Governor of Dominica, to send at least three of the four companies, now stationed in that Island, to the Island of St. Vincent, without loss of time; and his Majesty hopes, that this additional strength will enable you, at all events, to stand upon the defensive.

My Letter to General Gage, a Copy of which I inclose to you, will inform you, that it is his Majesty's intention, that the two regiments to be sent from North America, should return as soon as the service is completed, and I am to signify to you his Majesty's pleasure, that you do give the necessary directions accordingly.

I am, &c.

HILLSBOROUGH.

Letter

Letter from the Earl of Hillsborough to Lieutenant General Gage.

S I R,

WHITEHALL, April 18, 1772.

THE inclosed Copy of a representation from the island of St. Vincent, and of a Letter to the Treasury from the Commissioners, for the sale of lands, will inform you of the danger to which that island is exposed from the Charibbs, and the inclosed Copy of my Letter to Governor Leyborne will inform you of the measures his Majesty has thought fit to adopt in consequence thereof, and I am to signify to you his Majesty's pleasure, that you do, as soon as may be, send to St. Vincent's, two complete regiments of the troops under your command, leaving it entirely to you to name such corps as you think proper, with an exception only to the Royal American regiment.

As the success of this very important service will depend in a great measure upon the discretion and ability of the officer who will have from seniority the command of the whole force to be employed, you will of course, in the choice of the regiments you are to send, have attention to this circumstance. My Letter to Governor Leyborne is so full and explicit with regard to his Majesty's wishes and intentions respecting this service, as to make it unnecessary for me to add any thing more to this separate dispatch, than to recommend to you, that the regiments to be sent to St. Vincent's be supplied with every thing you shall think the nature of the service may require, and may contribute to their comfort and convenience in so unhealthy a climate.

It is his Majesty's intention, that these regiments should return to North America so soon as the service is compleated, and therefore you will take care that the contracts for the transports be made accordingly.

I am, &c.

HILLSBOROUGH.

Lieutenant General Gage.

Letter

Letter from the Earl of Hillsborough to Governor Leyborne.

S I R,

WHITEHALL, May 6, 1772.

INCLOSED I send you a duplicate of my separate and secret dispatch of the 18th of last month, respecting the measures to be taken with regard to the Black Charibbs in St. Vincent's, and I mention them now with this distinction, which I observe is not made in my last Letter, in order that you may be apprized, that it is not his Majesty's intention that the directions, contained in that Letter, should be considered as applicable to the Yellow Charibbs, who have, upon all occasions, behaved themselves submissively to Government, and from whom I conceive the inhabitants have nothing to apprehend.

I am, &c.

HILLSBOROUGH.

*Letter from Governor Leyborne to the Earl of Hillsborough,
dated at St. Vincent, August 25, 1772.*

My LORD,

I Am waiting with the greatest impatience for the arrival of the troops from America, as we are now ready to begin our expedition against the Charibbs, and the weather is uncommonly fine for this season of the year. I do not find there is any preparation made by these people for their defence, and I cannot but think they will submit, though their declarations are otherwise. I mean to issue a proclamation as soon as the troops arrive, prior to the commencement of hostilities; but I have

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little expectation that any good will accrue from it; nothing will convince them, that his Majesty has given orders for their reduction, but the marching of the troops. I am afraid some of our countrymen, that were purchasers of the lands, and the French that live among them, have possessed the Charibbs with ideas, that this measure is adopted by the King's Governor, and the Commissioners for the sales of lands, for their own private advantage, without any orders from his Majesty, as this opinion seems to prevail very generally among them.

Some days ago I dispatched the Government Sloop round the windward part of this Island, and ordered Captain Gordon, Chief Engineer, with the Chief Surveyor, to embark on board of her, in order to discover, if possible, some convenient place where ships might anchor, and that troops and artillery might land; they are not yet returned from this survey, but I have this moment received a letter from Captain Gordon, an extract of which I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship, by which it appears, there is a hostile disposition in these Savages, and a resolution to oppose our landing. I gave orders by no means to molest them, and not to use force, but in their own defence. Upon Captain Gordon's getting from under the fire of the Charibbs, they hoisted French colours, and gave three cheers.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

W. L. LEYBORNE.

Extract of a Letter from Henry Gordon, Esq; Chief Engineer, to Governor Leyborne, dated on Board the Sloop Portia, off Rawacka, August 21, 1772.

I Think it necessary to inform your Excellency, that the vessel, by the currents going to the westward, have not been able to get so high as point Espagnol until this morning. Yesterday we went ahead in the boat, and viewed that Point and the bay to the westward of it; this we found a tolerable anchoring-place, and on the Point a favourable situation for any work.

This morning, being still little wind, we proceeded in the boat as high as Rawacka, which has a good sandy beach to land on. There are several Indian houses on the small plain, between the bank over the beach, and the high grounds, which are near half a mile distant, and this ground is well cultivated. When we got before these houses, we saw the Indians running about, armed each with a gun and cutlass. I ordered the boat to stop at the south-east end of the bay, where we were in the reach of three Indians, to ask them if we should come on shore, which they refused to allow of. We then rowed on still pretty nigh the shore near some rocks, and a small rising ground, where we discovered a considerable groupe of savages, who all gave a squall when we came in view, and immediately began to fire at the boat, some from the bushes, and others from behind the rocks. We pushed the boat from under their fire, without any of us being hurt.

This mark of the Indians bad disposition, will cause us to keep a little further from the shore, and nigher the vessels, and occasion some greater delay in our proceeding.

Letter

*Letter from Lord Barrington to Governor Leyborne.***SIR,**

WAR OFFICE, Sept. 8, 1772.

I Have the honour to signify to you the King's pleasure, that in case the regiment which relieves the thirty-second regiment of foot in the Island of St. Vincent, under your command, should on their arrival be incomplete, and require any men to be turned over from the said regiment, you do give the necessary orders on this head, agreeable to the eightieth section of the Mutiny bill.

Inclosed I send you one of the acts for the present year, for your further information.

I have the Honour to be,

Sir, &c.

BARRINGTON.

Governor Leyborne at Grenada.

Letter

*Letter from Lord Barrington to Lieutenant-Colonel Dalrymple,
of the Fourteenth Regiment of Foot.*

S I R,

WAR OFFICE, 29 Sept. 1772.

I Have the honour to send you herewith, by the King's order, a Letter of service, in consequence of which you will take rank, and be paid as Major General, during the continuance of your command against the Charibbs.

Finding by a Letter from General Gage, that the fourteenth and thirty-first regiments were provided with camp necessities, it has been thought expedient to give them likewise to the sixth regiment, which is going to relieve the thirty-second. I shall likewise send, consigned to you, by the transports which carry that corps, camp necessities sufficient for two regiments, and which were originally intended immediately for North America, to be in store there against any future occasion, when they might be wanted. You will make use of them, if they shall be necessary for any of the other troops under your command; but it is the King's pleasure, that after the war with the Charibbs is over, these camp necessities shall be carefully packed, and sent to General Gage; if they shall not be wanted at St. Vincent, you will then send them unopened to his Excellency by the first convenient opportunity.

I have the Honour to be,

Sir, &c.

BARRINGTON

October 2d

P. S. The transports taken up for the conveyance of the sixth regiment, not being able to take on board the tents and camp necessities above-mentioned, it has been judged proper to send out a vessel for this purpose, which will follow the regiment to St. Vincent's without delay.

Lieutenant Colonel Dalrymple of
the 6th regiment of Foot.

Letter

Letter from Lord Barrington to the Earl of Rochfort.

MY LORD,

WAR OFFICE, Sept. 30, 1772.

TWO hundred tents being wanted for the use of the forces employed at St. Vincent's, against the Charibbs, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship therewith, that you may be pleased to receive his Majesty's commands thereupon, and signify the same to the Lieutenant General of the Ordnance, that the said tents may be delivered accordingly out of his Majesty's stores, for the use of the said forces, and the expence thereof charged to the estimate of Ordnance for Parliament.

I have the Honour to be,

My Lord, &c.

BARRINGTON.

Earl of Rochford, &c. &c.

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Letter

*Letter from Mr. Chamier to the Commanding Officer of the
6th Regiment.*

S I R,

WAR OFFICE, October 1, 1772.

IN the absence of the Secretary at War, who is gone into the country for a few days, I have the honour to signify to you his Majesty's pleasure, that the Sixth Regiment of Foot, under your command, do embark on board the vessels provided to carry them to St. Vincent's, agreeable to their former orders, without waiting for the camp necessaries, &c. mentioned in the Secretary at War's Letter of the twenty-sixth of last month, it being intended to send the camp necessaries, and some tents for the use of the forces at St. Vincent's, by another conveyance.

Inclosed I have the honour to send you, by this opportunity, his Majesty's order for recruiting the Regiment in North America, if occasion shall require.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

A N T. C H A M I E R.

Officer commanding the Sixth Regiment of Foot, at Plymouth.

Letter

Mr. Chamier's Letter to John Trotter, Esq.

S I R,

WAR OFFICE, October 13, 1772.

TWO hundred compleat sets of bedding being wanted for the service of the Hospital at St. Vincent's, I am, in the absence of the Secretary at War, to desire you will provide the said bedding, which is immediately to be shipped and sent to that Island.

I am, Sir, &c,

A N T. C H A M I E R.

John Trotter, Esq.

F I N I S.

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to the Hon. Chamberlain's Office to John Trotter, Esq.

WAR OFFICE, October 13, 1915.

Two hundred complete sets of bedding being wanted for the service of the Hospital at St. Vincent's, and in the absence of the Secretary at War, to deliver you will provide the said bedding, which is immediately to be shipped and sent to that Island.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY CHAMBERLAIN

ANTHONY CHAMBERLAIN

John Trotter, Esq.

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